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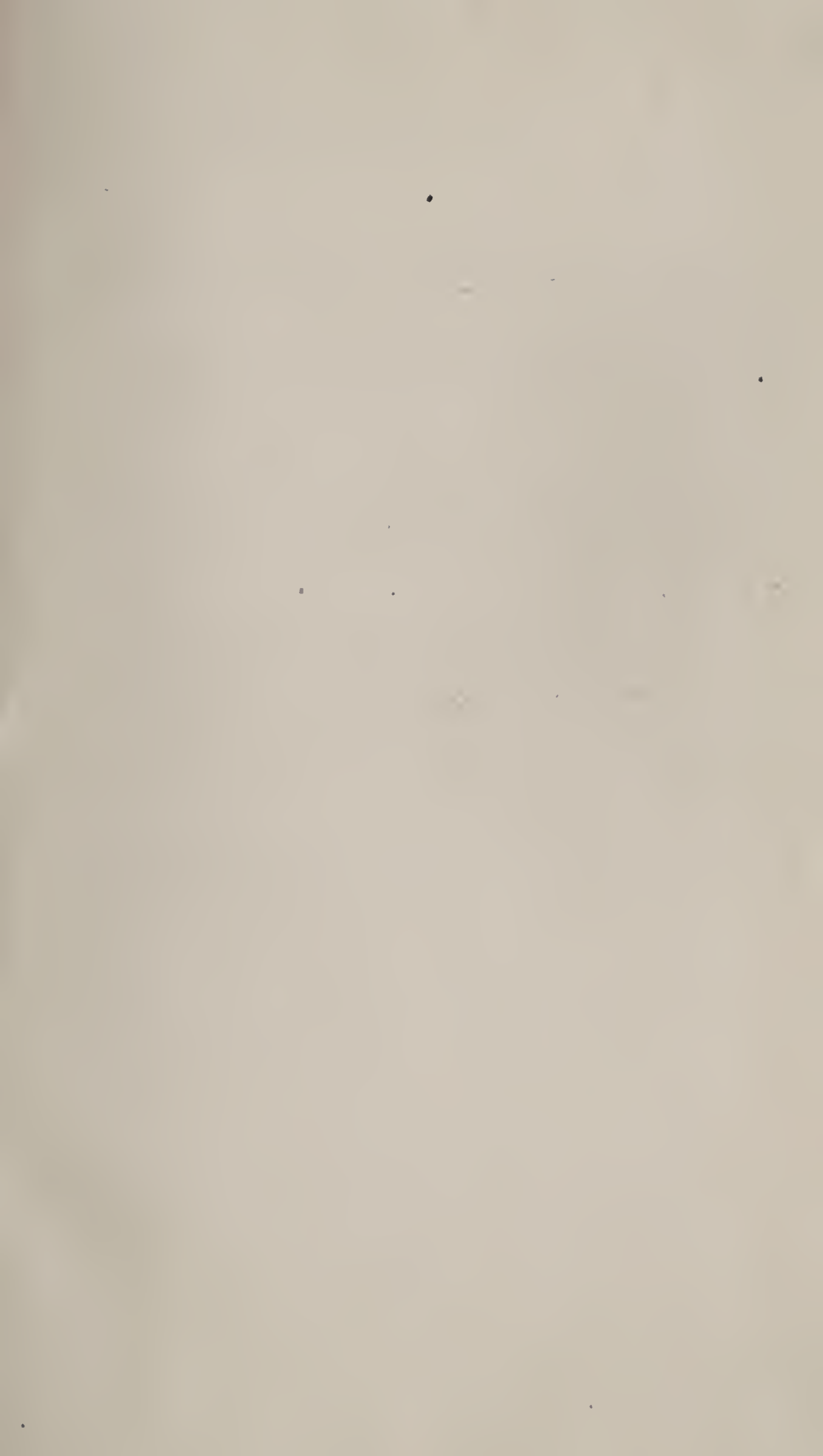
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# SPEECHES

OF

1081  
1063.

THE RIGHT HON. CHARLES ABBOT,

(LORD COLCHESTER,)

IN COMMUNICATING

THANKS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

TO

MILITARY COMMANDERS,

1807—1816 :

WITH

A Biographical Memoir and Appendix.

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[NOT PUBLISHED.]

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Biographical Memoir  
OF  
LORD COLCHESTER.

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CHARLES ABBOT, afterwards LORD COLCHESTER, was born at Abingdon in Berkshire, October 14th, 1757; the younger son of the Rev. John Abbot, D. D. Rector of All Saints, Colchester, by Sarah, daughter of Jonathan Farr (which Sarah, after Dr. Abbot's death in 1760, was re-married to Jeremiah Bentham, esq. and died in 1809). He was educated at Westminster school, where he manifested the same diligence under Dr. Markham and Dr. Smith, which distinguished him in after life; and in his thirteenth year became a King's scholar at the head of his election. In 1775 he was elected a student of Christ Church, Oxford. In 1777 he gained the Chancellor's prize for Latin verses, and the subject being the Czar Peter I.

he was honoured with a gold medal by the reigning Empress of Russia. He travelled to Geneva for improvement in foreign law in 1781; took a law degree at Oxford the next year, and became Vinerian Scholar. Soon after he was called to the bar, and practised with increasing success until he succeeded his brother in the clerkship of the Rules in the Court of King's Bench in the year 1795, his practice in the Court of Chancery being deemed too arduous for his health. This office he relinquished in 1801, on his appointment as chief secretary in Ireland.

Lord Colchester seems to have first turned his thoughts towards public life in the year 1790, when the name of Mr. Abbot appears in the Journals of the House of Commons as having been a candidate for the borough of Helston; and upon a vacancy in the representation of that place, caused by the remarkable appointment of Sir Gilbert Elliott as Viceroy of Corsica, he came into Parliament in June 1795. In the beginning of the next session he distinguished himself by an uncompromising speech on the Seditious

Meetings Bill, in which he boldly resisted the too prevalent democracy of the day.

In a subsequent part of the same session he recommended an improvement in the manner of dealing with Expiring laws, by establishing a regular method of laying full information before the House on that subject; and the hotchpot Acts by which the most discordant expiring laws were at that time continued by one Act, fell gradually into disuse, and entirely disappeared after the year 1806.

Proceeding in the same course of legislative utility, he brought before Parliament in 1797 a plan for a due Promulgation of the Statutes among magistrates, by furnishing a large proportion of them with a copy of all Acts of Parliament as soon as printed; thus enabling them to see readily the state of the law, instead of being obliged to refer to private collections of Acts, which are not every where accessible, and seldom reach quite to the present time.

At this time Mr. Pitt found it expedient to appoint a Finance Committee, of which

Mr. Abbot became the indefatigable chairman, and brought up to the table of the House thirty-six reports during that session and the next. These reports have since served as a model to other similar committees: they are uniform in the quantity of information collected; but not so in form and method, the reports on various offices having been distributed for preparation among the several members of the committee. The chairman prepared those regarding the Revenue, the Exchequer, and Law courts. The proceedings of Government on several of these reports are appended to them in the folio edition of reports, and the whole is still referred to with advantage and due respect on all suitable occasions.

An unostentatious Act of great importance was among the best fruits of this Finance Committee: Mr. Abbot (in 1800) having introduced a bill "for charging Public Accountants with the payment of Interest," whereby the "unaccounted millions," which used to be retained indefinitely by successive paymasters and others, in and out of office,



becoming chargeable with interest, have not since been retained.

At this time Mr. Abbot seems to have occupied himself in deliberate preparation for an investigation into the national Records ; he moved for a committee to that effect in February 1800, and presented to the House in the July of that year the large and valuable produce of their labours. Nothing could be more consonant to the solid mind of Lord Colchester than such an extensive research, which could not but demonstrate the eminence of England and Scotland over all other nations in the quantity and value of records, from Domesday Book, through the reigns of the Plantagenets, the Tudors, and the Stuarts. Too frequent have been intestine broils and civil wars during that long period of history ; but the insular position of Britain precluding successful invasion, the combatants have all felt a common property in these national treasures, which have fortunately escaped the base levelers of the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, and the fanatics who disgraced England previously to the restoration of Charles II.

From the reports of the Record Committee naturally sprung the Royal Record Commission, which continued this useful labour with renovated authority, under the guidance of Mr. Abbot, till his retirement from public life in the year 1817. Numerous publications, especially the authentic edition of the Statutes of the realm, testify the perseverance of the commissioners in the trust delegated to them by the Crown, and supported by Parliament.

In the beginning of the year 1801, Mr. Abbot introduced a bill for ascertaining the Population of Great Britain, with the increase and diminution thereof. The first of these objects is well known to be the primary rudiment of statistical knowledge, in which England had remained remarkably defective, whether from a scriptural prejudice against "numbering the people," or from an apprehended difficulty of obtaining true information on a subject too likely to excite apprehensions of accurate taxation or military levy. But the returns obtained under the Population Act of 1801 have been amply confirmed by



subsequent enumerations; a fact explainable from the well-chosen opportunity of a famine-price of provisions, which produced a general impression that this enumeration was made with a view to future precautions in favour of the numerous classes of society. The second aim of the Population Act would have been hopeless, indeed has never been attempted, in any foreign nation, from its obvious impracticability; but England among her records possessed registers of baptisms, burials, and marriages, in many parishes from the beginning of the reign of Elizabeth, and so generally from the commencement of the last century, that an unquestionable decennary approximation was obtained of the increase of population, which from the year 1710 never once retrograded, and from 1784 till 1801 increased at the rate of one per cent. per annum; since that time periodical returns show an increase of one and a half per cent. per annum.

At the commencement of the Sidmouth administration, Mr. Abbot was appointed Chief Secretary for Ireland under Lord Hard-

wicke, and Keeper of the privy seal; and commenced such reforms of the several public offices there as might be expected from the chairman of the Finance Committee; but his parliamentary activity had now marked him out as the successor of Sir John Mitford in the chair of the House of Commons. Mr. Abbot was elected Speaker 10th February 1802, and took possession of the office as that in which he had resolved to equal, and if possible to surpass, his predecessors, and to maintain with exemplary regularity the useful restrictions imposed by ancient forms on an assembly, composed indeed of somewhat discordant materials, but which under his guidance preserved a dignified consistency, worthy of a body which astonished the civilized world by the facility with which it drew out our national resources, during a war chequered with adversity, but terminating in exaltation and triumph.

In the year 1805 the Speaker was placed in a painful situation: a parliamentary Commission of Naval Inquiry had been established in pursuance of the objects of the

Finance Committee, and had felt it to be their duty to inculcate Lord Melville, a veteran statesman (at that time first lord of the admiralty), for his conduct while treasurer of the navy. The question for proceeding to prosecute him was agitated in the House of Commons with no small eagerness, and the parties were equally divided (216 on each side), when the Speaker, on all other occasions a moderator of debates without expression of personal opinion, was called upon for his casting vote. The functions of the House of Commons are said to be inquisitorial; possessing no jurisdiction beyond that which is necessary to maintain their own privileges, they act in alleged criminal cases as a grand jury, which merely sends a man to take his trial. This doctrine assists the Speaker's decision on such occasions, and he usually votes in such manner as to leave the question open to ulterior proceedings. On this principle Mr. Abbot gave his casting vote (as to the disgraceful part of this charge) on the 8th April 1805. Lord Melville, as is well known, was afterwards tried by impeachment,

and found *Not guilty* by his peers in June 1806.

At the general elections of 1806, 1807 and 1812, Mr. Abbot was elected member for the university of Oxford; and on a question very interesting to his constituents, his opinion on one occasion was remarkably influential. The Roman Catholic question had been frequently agitated in the House of Commons from the year 1805, and with growing strength on the part of those who wished to remove the remaining disabilities of the Roman Catholics. In the year 1813 they succeeded so far as to carry a bill to this effect through a second reading by a majority of *forty-two*; but in the committee on the bill (24th May) the Speaker moved that the important clause for admitting Roman Catholics into the legislature should be left out of the bill; and supported his motion by a speech of great ability, which made such impression on the committee that a majority of *four* decided against the clause, and the bill in consequence was abandoned.

It is sufficiently remarkable that during



Lord Colchester's last illness, the long-contested Roman Catholic question was successful; thus his lordship escaped from witnessing personally the majorities by which that bill was carried through the House of Lords, yet lived long enough to breathe his sincere desire that experience may prove his own apprehensions to have been groundless.

The forms of the House of Commons having been accommodated to the variegated business of nearly three centuries now on record, cannot but be convenient and plastic for all purposes; in no place does so much regularity spring out of seeming hurry and disorder. Yet the increasing number of private bills (200 or 300 in a session) had given occasion for complaints of injuries sustained from the haste or inattention of members: thereupon the Speaker, watchful of the protection of private rights in private bills, and of the reputation of the House of Commons, recommended for the sanction of the House, in the year 1811, the plan of an office for entry of notices, called the "Private Bill Office," where the progress of every private

bill is open to all inquirers; and the monopoly of practice in soliciting such bills being thus abolished, complaint was no longer heard.

Another inconvenience personal to members, had gradually arisen from the same overwhelming quantity of private business. In former times the Votes of a day, seldom or never exceeding a printed sheet, were distributed so regularly as to have obtained considerable sale as a newspaper; but the increasing quantity of matter, and the prolonged sitting of the House, had by degrees so delayed the delivery of the Votes, that before Mr. Abbot came to the chair they were usually two or three days in arrear, and sometimes a whole week. Mr. Speaker Abbot saw this with dissatisfaction, and after due consideration of the interests and habits which had grown up in consequence of this dilatory publication, he resolved to attempt a reformation suitable to the change of hours and the load of public and private business. For this purpose the marginal notes of the old-fashioned Votes were adopted

as a basis upon which to add whatever necessity or perspicuity demanded ; inserting also matters of information formerly reserved for the Journals, and giving a short narrative of some proceedings which even the Journals, (which are now printed weekly instead of annually) do not furnish.

A further convenience resulted from the early distribution of the Votes : the business of the current day was thenceforth displayed on every member's breakfast table ; and this sort of information has now become so copious and particular, that the sitting of every select committee, public and private, and all the material notices given in the Private Bill Office, appear in the votes, to whatever hour in the preceding night the sitting of the House is protracted.

This reform and improvement of the Votes was the last labour of Speaker Abbot. A serious attack of the same disease (erysipelas) which twelve years afterwards proved fatal to him, compelled him to quit his office in 1817 ; and all members who knew him in the chair feel the value of this legacy to the



House,—while younger members can scarcely believe that business could proceed with regularity and comfort in the comparative obscurity of earlier years. Upon the retirement of Mr. Abbot, the House of Commons addressed the King to bestow upon him some mark of his royal favour; and he was created a peer by the title of Baron Colchester, and a pension of £.4,000 a year to himself, and £.3,000 to his next successor in the title, was voted by Parliament. He shortly afterwards went abroad for the recovery of his health, and after a residence of three years chiefly in France and Italy, he returned to England, and divided his time between a London residence and his seat at Kidbrooke, near East Grinstead, where he solaced such of his hours as were vacant from the duties of an active magistrate, in observing the progress of his plantations of timber trees, in which he greatly delighted. In this retirement he experienced the advantage of his early attention to classical pursuits. They had formed his taste, and had given to the short compositions contained in this volume a peculiar

neatness and force of expression. They now afforded him much rational and elegant amusement, and brought with them many of those pleasing recollections of former years which in a well regulated mind produce one of the greatest pleasures of advanced life.

Lord Colchester carried into the House of Lords the same species of improvement which he had effected in the House of Commons, and their Lordships will owe to his short appearance among them the daily publication and distribution of their proceedings. They are also indebted to him for the establishment of a library, on the same plan as that at the House of Commons.

In the year 1827, his lordship made a considerable journey to the northern Highlands of Scotland, which possessed peculiar claims to his notice. Soon after he became Speaker, Lord Sidmouth's administration, especially Mr. Vansittart (then secretary of the treasury, now Lord Bexley), became attentive to the improvement of the Highlands. Roads were surveyed and planned to a great extent, and a Canal of unusual

magnitude; and lest the course of improvement should depend too much upon the permanence of any administration, the Speaker of the House of Commons was named first in the Parliamentary Commission,—with strict propriety, as superintending a large expenditure of money granted from time to time by Parliament for these purposes.

Roads to the extent of 900 miles, besides many large bridges, have thus been completed at the joint expense of the public and of the Highland counties; about 500,000 *l.* having been judiciously and frugally expended in this manner under the care of the late Speaker, whose vigilance never slept when Highland business was brought before him. His visit to the Roads, the Caledonian canal, and the new Churches, placed him in pleasing contact with a population sensible of the benefits bestowed upon them, and eager to show him every token of heartfelt respect; nor did he fail at his return to exert himself in refreshing the attention of the other commissioners, by statements of the vast improvements, under their fostering

care, which he had personally witnessed in the Highlands.

Lord Colchester was four times chosen Speaker *unanimously*, after his first election. He retired from office on the 30th May 1817, having filled the chair during fifteen years.

The brilliant victories of our army and navy during the war were often the theme of his official speeches, about twenty of which, including that addressed to the Duke of Wellington, may be quoted as models of just eulogy, appropriate to the person and to the exploit, with a degree of classic terseness and chastity of ornament suitable to the dignity of that House which had directed the national thanks to be thus communicated.

The only works of Lord Colchester, hitherto printed are, the Practice of the Chester Circuit, published in 1795, with a preface, recommending those alterations in the Welsh judicature which now appear likely to be carried into effect: a collection of the Rules and Orders of the Court of King's Bench (from the records of his then office),



in 1797 : he also published a pamphlet containing six of his speeches on the Roman Catholic question, with preliminary observations on the state of that question as it stood in November 1828.

Lord Colchester married, December 29th, 1796, Elizabeth, eldest daughter of Sir Philip Gibbes, bart. ; and has left two sons : Charles (born in 1798), a post captain in the royal navy, now Lord Colchester ; and Philip Henry (born after his father's return from Ireland in 1802), a young barrister of great promise.

His lordship died on the 8th May 1829, at his house in Spring-gardens, in the seventy-second year of his age ; and his remains were interred privately in Westminster Abbey, by the side of those of his mother.

THANKS  
TO  
MILITARY OFFICERS.





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## COPENHAGEN:

1 FEB. 1808.

Major-general the Honourable *Edward Finch*, Major-general *Thomas Grosvenor*, and Major-general the Right honourable Sir *Arthur Wellesley*, being come to the House, Mr. Speaker acquainted them, that the House had, upon Thursday last, resolved, that the Thanks of this House be given to them for the zeal, intrepidity and exertion, which they displayed in the various operations which were necessary for conducting the siege, and effecting the surrender of the navy and arsenal of *Copenhagen*; and Mr. Speaker gave them the Thanks of the House accordingly, as followeth:

MAJOR-GENERAL FINCH, Major-general GROSVENOR, and Major-general Sir ARTHUR WELLESLEY:

THIS House, contemplating the services performed by His Majesty's army on the

late Danish expedition, and applauding the zeal, intrepidity and exertion, displayed by the general officers employed in the reduction of Copenhagen, has conferred upon them the high honour of its approbation and thanks : a higher reward this House has not to bestow.

In distributing these honours, it is at all times matter of just pride and satisfaction to this House, to behold within its own walls any of those distinguished persons whose merit has raised them to this eminence.

But I should indeed be wanting to the full expression of those sentiments which animate this House and the whole country, if I forbore to notice, that we are on this day crowning with our thanks one gallant officer, long since known to the gratitude of this House,—who has long trodden the paths of glory, whose genius and valour have already extended our fame and empire, whose sword has been the terror of our distant enemies, and will not now be drawn in vain to defend the seat of empire itself, and the throne of his Sovereign.

I am charged to deliver the thanks of this House to you all ; and I do accordingly thank you in the name of the Commons of the United Kingdom, “ for your zeal, intrepidity and exertion, displayed in the various operations which were necessary for conducting the siege, and effecting the surrender of the navy and arsenal of Copenhagen.”

Upon which Major-general FINCH said :

Mr. Speaker,

I beg leave most respectfully to return you my thanks for the obliging and very flattering terms in which you have communicated a Resolution of the House, which reflects such high and distinguished honour on every individual included in it ; allow me, Sir (if I may judge from my own feelings), to assure you and the House, that nothing can make a stronger impression on the mind of any one devoted to the service of his country, than to know that any act of duty, in which he may have had even an humble part, has been

thought worthy of the notice and approbation of this House.

Major-general GROSVENOR then said :

Mr. Speaker,

It is impossible to have communicated to me, in my place in this House, the high and distinguished honour, such as I hold the thanks of Parliament to be, without exciting in my breast feelings and sensations such as I am unable to suppress.

Sir, the proudest recompence, the most valuable remuneration a soldier can look to, as a reward for public service, is the thanks of his country.

When I consider my own humble services, I feel oppressed and overcome as it were by the value I cannot but attach to the communication you make me; and the more open, Sir, to this feeling, impressed as I am with the handsome and flattering manner in which you have been pleased to convey the vote of the House to my brother officers and myself.

Major-general Sir ARTHUR WELLESLEY  
then said :

Mr. Speaker,

I consider myself fortunate that I was employed by His Majesty on a service which this House has considered of such importance, as to have marked with its approbation the conduct of those officers and troops who have performed it. The honour which this House has conferred upon my honourable friends and myself, is justly considered by the officers of the navy and army as the highest which this country can confer ; it is the object of the ambition of all who are employed in His Majesty's service, and to obtain it has doubtless been the motive of many of those acts of valour and good conduct which have tended so eminently to the glory, and have advanced the prosperity and advantage of this country.

I can assure the House, that I am most sensible of the great honour which they have done me ; and I beg leave to take this opportunity of returning you, Sir, my thanks, for



the handsome terms, respecting myself, in which your kindness to me has induced you to convey the resolution of the House.

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Captain Sir *Home Popham* being come to the House, Mr. Speaker acquainted him, that the House had, upon Thursday last, resolved, that the Thanks of this House be given to him for his cordial and effectual co-operation with the land forces during the siege of *Copenhagen*, and for his indefatigable activity and exertions in equipping the *Danish* navy for sea, and effecting the embarkation and removal of the naval stores from the arsenal at that place : and Mr. Speaker gave him the Thanks of the House accordingly, as followeth :

Captain Sir HOME POPHAM,

THE prompt and able distribution of His Majesty's fleet, during the late important expedition to the Baltic ; the zeal and intelligence displayed by His Majesty's naval forces in supporting the operations of the besieging army ; and their subsequent exertions on completing the service upon which



they were employed, have obtained the approbation and thanks of this House.

Amongst the gallant officers of that fleet, whose names have been honoured with this high distinction, I have to congratulate you that your's also stands recorded.

And I do now accordingly, by the command of this House, give their thanks to you, “ for your cordial and effectual co-operation with His Majesty's land forces during the siege of Copenhagen; and for your indefatigable activity and exertions in equipping the Danish navy for sea, and effecting the embarkation and removal of the naval stores from the arsenal of that place.”

Upon which Sir HOME POPHAM said :

Mr. Speaker,

I beg leave, Sir, to express through you to this honourable House, my most profound sense of the notice it has been pleased to take of my humble participation in the operations of the late expedition to Copenhagen.

No man, Sir, can be insensible to the distinction which this House has conferred upon the army and navy on the present occasion; no man prizes that distinction higher than the value I set upon it; and I beg leave to assure the House, as the only tribute of gratitude which I can offer, that it shall be the first principle of my life, regardless of all consequences to myself, to promote, by the full exercise of my poor faculties, the service of our much esteemed country, and the glory of our virtuous Sovereign.

With the manner which you have conveyed this honourable testimony of approbation I am most deeply impressed; and I beg leave to offer you my sincere and very grateful acknowledgments.

## VIMIERA:

27 JAN. 1809.

Lieutenant-general the Right honourable Sir *Arthur Wellesley* being come to the House, Mr. Speaker acquainted him, that the House had, upon Wednesday last, resolved, that the Thanks of this House be given to him for the distinguished valour, ability, and conduct, displayed by him on the 17th and 21st of August last, in *Portugal*, on the latter of which days he obtained at *Vimiera*, over the army of the enemy, a signal victory, honourable and glorious to the *British* arms; and Mr. Speaker gave him the Thanks of the House accordingly, as followeth:

Lieut.-general Sir ARTHUR WELLESLEY,

AFTER the events of the last year, it was impossible that Parliament should re-assemble without directing its earliest attention to the services of the British army in Portugal; and amidst the contending opinions which have prevailed upon other questions, the public voice has been loud

and general in admiration of your splendid achievements.

It is your praise to have inspired your troops with unshaken confidence and unbounded ardour; to have commanded, not the obedience alone, but the hearts and affections of your companions in arms; and, having planned your operations with the skill and promptitude which have so eminently characterized all your former exertions, you have again led the armies of your country to battle, with the same deliberate valour, and triumphant success, which have long since rendered your name illustrious in the remotest parts of this empire.

Military glory has ever been dear to this nation; and great military exploits in the field, or upon the ocean, have their sure reward in Royal favour, and the gratitude of Parliament. It is, therefore, with the highest satisfaction that, in this fresh instance, I now proceed to deliver to you the thanks of this House; and I do now accordingly, by the command, and in the name, of the Commons of the United Kingdom of

Great Britain and Ireland, thank you for the distinguished valour, ability, and conduct, displayed by you on the 17th and 21st of August last, in Portugal, on the latter of which days you obtained at Vimiera, over the army of the enemy, a signal victory, honourable and glorious to the British arms.

Upon which Sir ARTHUR WELLESLEY said :

Mr. Speaker,

I beg leave to express my acknowledgments to the House for the high honour which they have conferred upon me, by the notice which they have taken, and the approbation they have conveyed, of my conduct during the time I commanded His Majesty's troops in Portugal.

No man can value more highly than I do the honourable distinction which has been conferred upon me; a distinction which it is in the power of the representatives of a free people alone to bestow, and which it is the peculiar advantage of the officers and soldiers



in the service of His Majesty to have held out to them as the object of their ambition, and to receive as the reward of their services.

I beg leave, at the same time, to return you, Sir, my thanks for the handsome terms in which your kindness, I ought to say your partiality for me, has induced you to convey the approbation of the House.

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ROLEIA AND VIMIERA:

1 FEB. 1809.

Brigadier-general *Henry Fane* being come to the House, Mr. Speaker acquainted him, that the House had, upon Wednesday last, resolved, that the Thanks of this House be given to him, for his skilful and gallant exertions against the enemy in the battles of *Roleia* and *Vimiera*, by which he reflected so much lustre on His Majesty's arms; and Mr. Speaker gave him the Thanks of the House accordingly, as followeth:

Brigadier-general FANE,

UPON the late expedition to Portugal, it was your fortune to hold a distinguished



command in the British army which repeatedly gave battle to the forces of France. The event of such conflicts could not be doubtful; British valour and discipline triumphed; and those who commanded and directed their exertions were covered with glory.

Whenever the battles of Roleia and Vimiera shall be named (and they will be long and often named with exultation), your heart may glow with the conscious and honourable pride, that your sword upon those days was not drawn in vain; and although that gallant and accomplished officer, who, placed by your side, jointly with you, sustained the brunt of the day at Vimiera, has since been unhappily swept away by the course of human events beyond the reach of our thanks; his brave brethren in arms may rest assured, that the name of General Anstruther will live, not unhonoured, in the sad and grateful remembrance of his country.

But, Sir, in what concerns your exploits in Portugal, my present duty stops here; and I am, in the first place, to deliver to

you the thanks of this House, in the name of the Commons of this United Kingdom, for your skilful and gallant exertions against the enemy in the battles of Roleia and Vimiera, by which you reflected so much lustre on His Majesty's arms.

Upon which Brigadier-general FANE said:

Mr. Speaker,

Although I am unable to express, in adequate language, the very high sense I entertain of the honour conferred upon me, upon the present occasion, yet I trust the House will do me the justice to believe that I feel it as I ought.

To you, Sir, I have to offer my warmest thanks for the very flattering manner in which you have communicated the vote of the House.

## C O R U N N A :

1 FEB. 1809.

Lieutenant-general *Alexander Mackenzie Fraser* being also come to the House, and Brigadier-general *Henry Fane* being present, Mr. Speaker acquainted them, that the House had, upon Wednesday last, resolved, that the Thanks of this House be given to them for their distinguished conduct and exemplary valour displayed in the battle of *Corunna*, whereby the complete repulse and signal defeat of the enemy, on every point of attack, was effected, and the safe and unmolested embarkation of the army secured in the presence of a *French* army of superior force ; and Mr. Speaker gave them the Thanks of the House accordingly, as followeth :

Lieutenant-general MACKENZIE FRASER,  
and Brigadier-general FANE,

THE deep grief which this nation has felt, for the loss it has experienced by the death of that illustrious commander the late Sir John Moore, in the memorable battle of *Corunna*, has been mitigated in some degree,

by the reflection, that it still numbers amongst its brave defenders, many gallant and distinguished officers, who, formed and fired by his great example, we may confidently expect, will emulate his glory.

In this honourable list your names stand enrolled. And this House, acknowledging with gratitude your important services upon that lamented but glorious day, has commanded me to deliver you its thanks: and I do accordingly, in the name of the Commons of this United Kingdom, thank you for your distinguished conduct and exemplary valour displayed in the battle of Corunna, whereby the complete repulse and signal defeat of the enemy, on every point of attack, was effected, and the safe and unmolested embarkation of the army secured in the presence of a French army of superior force.

Upon which Lieutenant-general FRASER said:

Mr. Speaker,

The high and distinguished honour con-

ferred upon us by the House calls for our warmest acknowledgment and gratitude, and will be an incitement to us, if any were wanting, to use every exertion in our power to add fresh lustre to His Majesty's arms, whenever an opportunity offers.

Permit me, Sir, also to offer you my thanks for the handsome and flattering manner in which you have been pleased to convey to me the sentiments of the House.

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Rear-admiral Sir *Samuel Hood* being come to the House, Mr. Speaker acquainted him, that the House had, upon Wednesday last, resolved, that the Thanks of this House be given to him for his most effectual and able disposition of the ships and transports, and for his effectual exertions in accomplishing the embarkation of His Majesty's troops at *Corunna* on the late memorable occasion; and Mr. Speaker gave him the Thanks of the House accordingly, as followeth :

Rear-admiral Sir SAMUEL HOOD,

THE various and brilliant services which have marked the splendid career of your



naval glory have long since made you known to the recorded gratitude of Parliament; and the memorable and difficult service which you have recently contributed to accomplish at Corunna has called forth this fresh tribute of its applause.

I do therefore now, by the command, and in the name of the Commons of this United Kingdom, thank you for your most able disposition of the ships and transports, and for your effectual exertions in accomplishing the embarkation of His Majesty's troops at Corunna, on the late memorable occasion.

Upon which Rear-admiral Sir SAMUEL HOOD said :

Mr. Speaker,

I beg leave to offer my most sincere thanks for the honour conferred on me, by the vote of this House; it affords me peculiar satisfaction that in the performance of my duty only, my services have met the approbation of the representatives of my countrymen, which I shall always endeavour to merit.

For the very handsome manner, Sir, you



have been pleased to communicate this to me, I request you to accept my warmest acknowledgments.

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## ROLEIA AND VIMIERA :

6 FEB. 1809.

Major-general *Ferguson* being come to the House, Mr. Speaker acquainted him, that the House had, upon the 25th day of January last, resolved, that the Thanks of this House be given to him for his skilful and gallant exertions against the enemy in the battles of *Roleia* and *Vimiera*, by which he reflected so much lustre on His Majesty's arms; and Mr. Speaker gave him the Thanks of the House accordingly, as followeth :

Major-general FERGUSON,

AMONGST the many high privileges enjoyed under this free constitution, it is of great public advantage, that they who serve their country in the field, may also maintain its rights and assist its councils in the

senate ; and this House beholds at all times with peculiar pride and satisfaction those gallant officers who, returning from foreign wars to resume their duties in this place, appear again amongst us with increased reputation and honour.

Whenever the fleets and armies of this country go forth, the nation unremittingly contemplates the progress of their operations ; and, looking with anxious hope for a victorious result, it nevertheless confidently expects that, in every event, each of its military leaders will not fail to combine, with a ready skill in the arts of modern warfare, the firm and undaunted courage of his ancestors. These hopes and these expectations you have not disappointed upon the late expedition to Portugal ; and your country will long remember with admiration, your intrepid conduct in the battle of Roleia, and your signal display of judgment and valour in the battle of Vimiera.

These exploits have obtained for you the thanks of Parliament, which you will receive not more as the tribute of its gratitude,

than as a mark and note of the further services which it expects at your hands.

I do, therefore, in the name and by the command of the Commons of this United Kingdom, thank you for your skilful and gallant exertions against the enemy in the battles of Roleia and Vimiera, by which you reflected so much lustre on His Majesty's arms.

Upon which Major-general FERGUSON said:

Mr. Speaker,

I beg leave to return my warmest acknowledgments for the high and distinguished honour which this House has been pleased to confer on me.

Having ever considered that the greatest reward which a soldier can attain is the approbation of his country, the thanks of this House must be received by me with gratitude and pride. I am well aware, however, that I owe this honour not to my own merit, but to my singular good fortune, in commanding such officers and such men as

were placed under my immediate orders, and in being myself under the guidance of a general, whose talents, decision, and bravery, justly secured to him the confidence of every man in his army.

Could any thing in my mind enhance the value of the thanks of this House, it would be the very handsome (but too flattering) manner in which you, Sir, have been pleased to communicate them.

## TALAVERA :

5 FEB. 1810.

Brigadier-general the Honourable *Charles Stewart* being come to the House, Mr. Speaker acquainted him that the House had, upon Thursday last, resolved, that the Thanks of this House be given to him for his distinguished exertions on the 27th and 28th of July last, in the memorable battle of *Talavera*, which terminated in the signal defeat of the forces of the enemy; and Mr. Speaker gave him the Thanks of the House accordingly, as followeth :

Brigadier-general CHARLES STEWART,

AMONGST the gallant officers to whom this House has declared its gratitude for their distinguished services in Spain, your name has the honour to stand enrolled.

During the progress of the two last campaigns in Spain and Portugal, whoever has turned his eyes towards the bold and perilous operations of our armies in Leon and Galicia; whoever has contemplated the brilliant passage of the British troops across the Douro,



an exploit which struck the enemy himself with admiration as well as dismay; must have marked throughout those memorable achievements that spirit of energy and enterprize with which you have rapidly advanced in the career of military fame, and by which you have now fixed your name for ever in the annals of your country, as a chief sharer in those immortal laurels won by British fortitude and valour in the glorious and hard-fought battles of Talavera.

Upon the great commander under whom it was there your pride and felicity to serve, his Sovereign, this House, and the voice of an applauding empire, have conferred those signal testimonies of honour and gratitude which posterity will seal with its undoubting approbation: and it is no mean part of the merits for which you are to be this day crowned with our thanks, that you were chosen by such a commander to be the companion of his councils, and the sure hand to which he could entrust the prompt and effectual direction of his comprehensive and victorious operations.



To you, Sir, I am therefore now to deliver the thanks of this House ; and I do accordingly, in the name and by the command of the Commons of the United Kingdom, thank you for your distinguished exertions on the 27th and 28th days of July last, in the memorable battles of Talavera, which terminated in the signal defeat of the forces of the enemy.

Upon which Brigadier-general STEWART said :

Mr. Speaker,

I feel myself totally inadequate to express the high sense I entertain of the distinguished honour that has been conferred upon me, an honour far exceeding any little services I may have rendered in the fortunate situations in which I have been placed : if a sentiment of regret could at such a moment arise in my mind, it would be that (from the circumstance of a severe indisposition) I stand alone here on the present occasion, the army being still on service, and that I am not accompanied by my gallant brother officers (equally

members of this House), who are far more eminently entitled to its thanks, and to the applause of their country, than myself.

If I might venture to arrogate any thing beyond the most anxious zeal for the King's service, and a sincere love for the profession I belong to, it is an ardent desire to follow the footsteps of my great and gallant commander, to whose sole abilities and exertions we stand indebted not only for the battle of Talavera, but for all those successes which have rendered him alike an ornament to his country and a terror to her foes : to follow his bright example, to emulate his achievements, and be thought worthy of his confidence, I shall ever consider as the surest passport to the greatest distinction that can be conferred on a soldier ; I mean the approbation of this honourable House.

I must now offer my sincerest acknowledgments to you, Sir, for the very marked kindness you have shown me in expressing to me the thanks of this House, by condescending to enumerate my humble services in the partial manner you have done ; and

I beg to assure you it will be my anxious study to avail myself of all occasions to merit the honour which has this day been conferred upon me.

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8 MAR. 1810.

Lieutenant-general Sir *Stapleton Cotton*, baronet, and Brigadier-general *George Anson*, being come to the House, Mr. Speaker acquainted them that the House had, upon the 1st day of February last, resolved, that the Thanks of this House be given to them for their distinguished exertions on the 27th and 28th of July last, in the memorable battle of *Talavera*, which terminated in the signal defeat of the forces of the enemy; and Mr. Speaker gave them the Thanks of the House accordingly, as followeth:

Lieut.-general Sir STAPLETON COTTON,  
and Brigadier-general ANSON,

UPON your return from the eventful wars of Spain, whatever variance of opinion, whatever alternation of hopes and apprehensions,

you may have found to prevail in this country respecting the progress and final issue of that awful contest, nevertheless, your distinguished conduct and services have not failed to call forth one universal expression of applause and admiration.

The British cavalry has been long renowned in war. Victorious in other times over the troops of France, it feared not again to meet its former rivals, flushed even as they were with the pride of conquest, and the spoil of many nations. Led by your swords, it again displayed a strength and valour irresistible in the shock of arms, and renewed its ancient triumphs in the hard-fought field of Talavera. When the history of these memorable days shall be read by our latest descendants, be assured that your names will be repeated with exultation, and your deeds recounted in the list of those heroic achievements.

You serve not an ungrateful country. It well knows that military fame is national power. And this House, ever prompt to proclaim its gratitude for eminent services in war, has therefore conferred upon you the

honour of its unanimous thanks. And I do now accordingly, in the name and by the command of the Commons of the United Kingdom, thank you for your distinguished exertions on the 27th and 28th days of July last, in the memorable battle of Talavera, which terminated in the signal defeat of the forces of the enemy.

Upon which Lieut.-general Sir STAPLETON COTTON said :

Mr. Speaker,

In endeavouring to express my sense of the very high honour which has been conferred upon me, and which has been communicated to me by you, Sir, in so flattering a manner, I fear I shall fall far short of what my feelings are upon this occasion.

To receive the thanks of Parliament is one of the highest rewards to which a soldier can aspire; and believe me, Sir, I shall ever consider it my greatest pride to have been so honoured : this, I may venture to say, is the feeling of all my brother officers and soldiers who had the good fortune to be commanded



by one of the most able and distinguished generals that has adorned the annals of this country, and who will, I trust (should an opportunity offer), again prove to the world that a British army is not to be beat by a French force of double its numbers.

Brigadier-general ANSON then said :

Mr. Speaker,

That any part of my professional conduct should have been deemed worthy the particular notice of this House and of my country, is no less honourable than gratifying to my feelings : I must, however, be allowed to confess myself more indebted for this distinguished honour to the exertions of those brave soldiers with whom I had the glory of being associated, than to any particular merit attached to myself individually.

I beg to express to this honourable House the high sense I entertain of the honour it has conferred upon me ; and that it will ever be the pride of my life to have been thought in the slightest degree deserving of its good opinion. To you, Sir, I must beg to make



my warmest acknowledgments for the very handsome and polite manner in which you have conveyed to me the sentiments of this House, and for the many very gratifying expressions with which you have accompanied the communication of this most flattering distinction.

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## A L B U E R A :

3 FEB. 1812.

Major-general the Honourable *Galbraith Lowry Cole* being come to the House, Mr. Speaker acquainted him that the House had, upon the 7th day of June, in the last Session of Parliament, resolved, that the Thanks of this House be given to him for his distinguished exertions on the 16th of May last, in the glorious battle at *Albuera*, which terminated in the signal defeat of the enemy's forces ; and Mr. Speaker gave him the Thanks of the House accordingly, as followeth :

Major-general COLE,

AFTER your long absence upon military service we cannot behold your return amongst us, without calling to mind the memorable

events which have signalized the arms of this country in modern times, and in which you have borne a distinguished part.

In the annals of our military history, the plains of Maida\* can never be forgotten; where British valour and the steadiness of British discipline routed the veteran troops of France, and humbled the pride of a presumptuous enemy; and we cannot forget, that in the history of that day, your name stands enrolled amongst those whose gallantry bore the brunt of the contest and decided its issue.

Pursuing the same career of honour, and toiling onwards in the fields of war, you have again claimed our admiration and gratitude, by your distinguished exertions in the hard-fought battle of Albuera: for the commander in chief of the allied armies upon that day has given us his recorded testimony, that, by your experienced eye and judicious valour, the triumph of the day was completed; when you were seen leading on your troops

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\* The battle of Maida was fought 4th July 1806.

to the charge, and although yourself amongst the wounded, yet foremost amongst the victorious.

These deeds of glory lose not their reward with a great and warlike nation.

I therefore do now, in the name and by the command of the Commons of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, deliver to you their unanimous thanks for your distinguished exertions in the glorious battle of Albuera.

Upon which Major-general COLE said:

Sir,

To be considered by this House as deserving their thanks, is certainly highly gratifying to my feelings ; but I should ill deserve the honour conferred on me, or the situation I hold, were I to take that merit to myself which is unquestionably due to the unconquerable spirit and gallantry of the troops it was my good fortune to command on that memorable day. To them, and to them alone, thanks are due. I beg the House, however, will do me the justice to believe, I am fully

sensible of the honour conferred on me; and I have to regret my inability to express my obligation to you, Sir, for the handsome and flattering terms in which you have been pleased to convey them.

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SALAMANCA:

10 FEB. 1813.

Major-general *Henry Clinton* and Major-general *William Henry Pringle* being come to the House, Mr. Speaker acquainted them that the House had, upon the 3d day of December last, resolved, that the Thanks of this House be given to them for their distinguished exertions in the battle of *Salamanca*, upon the 22d of July last, which terminated in a glorious and decisive victory over the enemy's army; and Mr. Speaker gave them the Thanks of the House accordingly, as followeth:

Major-general CLINTON, and Major-general PRINGLE,

THIS House is always prompt to acknowledge military merit; and we rejoice to see

amongst us those who have signalized their names in war.

When the great captain who commands our armies in the Peninsula, after a series of skilful operations, obtained the opportunity for which he had long been anxious, and brought the enemy to action in front of Salamanca : he relates, that the foremost of his troops, in their first onset, drove the enemy from height to height, and bore down all before them ; that when the stress of the battle in other points had checked the bravest of our battalions, and disabled some of their most distinguished leaders, the division of which Major-general Pringle then took the command nevertheless steadily maintained the contest ; and that when the reserve was brought up by Major-general Clinton, the issue of the day was rendered no longer doubtful, and the victory was by him completed.

These plain recitals have marked out your exploits for public applause and admiration, and to these honours your country has also added the tribute of her public gratitude.

I do therefore now, in the name and by



the command of the Commons of Great Britain and Ireland, in Parliament assembled, deliver to you, severally, their unanimous thanks, for your distinguished exertions in the battle of Salamanca, upon the 22d of July last, which terminated in a glorious and decisive victory over the enemy's army.

Upon which Major-general CLINTON said:

Mr. Speaker,

I assure you, Sir, I set the greatest value on the honour which has been conferred upon me by the vote of the House.

I consider such an acknowledgment of services rendered to our country to be amongst the highest recompenses which can be bestowed.

This honourable reward, added to the consciousness which I enjoy of having always zealously endeavoured to be useful to the army and to my country, affords me peculiar gratification; but I should be ungrateful towards those brave men whom I had the honour to command upon the occasion to which you have particularly alluded, if I were

not to acknowledge how much I feel indebted for the honour which I have just received, to their noble conduct and persevering gallantry throughout the trials of that arduous but glorious day.

I feel, Sir, very sensibly, your kindness in the flattering manner in which you have been so good as to communicate to me the vote of the House, and for which I beg you will do me the honour to accept my sincere thanks.

Then Major-general PRINGLE said :

Mr. Speaker,

I feel most sensibly the high honour which has been conferred on me by the thanks of this House. I am well aware that very little of the success of that glorious day at Salamanca can be attributed to any feeble efforts of mine, but to the bravery of those troops which I had the good fortune to command. I shall, however, always consider it as the most fortunate circumstance of my life, the having been placed in a situation which has procured me the high honour which I have this day received. I beg leave to return you,

Sir, my thanks for the very flattering terms in which you have been pleased to express yourself on my conduct.

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9 MARCH 1813.

Lieutenant-general Sir *Stapleton Cotton* being come to the House, Mr. Speaker acquainted him, that the House had, upon the 3d day of December last, resolved, that the Thanks of the House be given to him, for his distinguished exertions in the battle of *Salamanca* upon the 22d of July last, which terminated in a glorious and decisive victory over the enemy's army; and Mr. Speaker gave him the Thanks of the House accordingly, as followeth:

Lieut.-general Sir STAPLETON COTTON,

IN this interval between the active seasons of war, your proper sphere of duty is within these walls; and we hail with pride and pleasure your return amongst us, bringing with you fresh marks of royal favour, the just reward of fresh services and triumphs.

Descended from a long line of ancestors, whose names are recorded in the earliest

ages of our history, and characterized with those qualities of prudence, generosity, and valour, which have laid the foundations of English greatness, your race has exhibited many a model of that splendid worth which dignifies the gentlemen of England, always prompt to discharge the laborious duties of civil life, and never slow to take up arms at the call of their country. Such, in an eminent degree, was that venerated person from whom you have immediately derived your own hereditary honours, endeared by his active virtues to the public men of his own times, not unknown to some who still sit amongst us, and ever remembered by myself with the sincerest sentiments of respect and affection.

But, Sir, when the path of early life lay open to your choice, the then warlike state of the world called forth a congenial spirit, and your military ardour led you to encounter the toils and dangers of war in distant climates. Trained in the same camps, and animated by the same love of glory, as the great captain who now commands our armies,

and fills the world with his renown, you have bravely followed his brilliant career, and shared in his unexampled triumphs. Renouncing the charms of ease, and the seat of your ancestors, you have gallantly gone forth to the tented fields of Portugal and Spain; and, having reaped the harvest of our thanks for your achievements in the battle of Talavera, you now stand before us crowned with the never-fading laurels of Salamanca: your squadrons, upon that memorable day, overthrowing the enemy's embattled ranks, laid open the road to victory; and the work which your gallantry had commenced, your triumphant perseverance completed.

These heroic exploits have again entitled you to the public gratitude; and I do now, in the name and by the command of the Commons of Great Britain and Ireland in Parliament assembled, deliver to you their unanimous thanks for your distinguished exertions in the battle of Salamanca, on the 22d of July last, which terminated in a glorious and decisive victory over the enemy's army.



Upon which Lieut.-general Sir STAPLETON COTTON said :

Mr. Speaker,

I cannot express how much I feel gratified and honoured by the vote of thanks which has been passed by this House, and conveyed to me by you, Sir, in so flattering a manner : I am indebted to the discipline and bravery of the troops I have the honour to command, for this most distinguished reward.

In zeal for the service, and attachment to my king and country, I yield to no man : my feeble efforts shall ever be exerted to render myself worthy of the very great honour which has been conferred upon me.

## SALAMANCA AND VITTORIA:

11 Nov. 1813.

Major-general *George Anson* being come to the House, Mr. Speaker acquainted him with the resolutions of the House of the 3d day of December 1812, and of the 7th day of July last, respecting his services in the battles of *Salamanca* and *Vittoria*; and Mr. Speaker gave him the Thanks of the House accordingly, as followeth :

Major-general ANSON,

WHEN last I had the honour of addressing you from this place, you came to receive our thanks for your share in the glorious battle of Talavera.

Pursuing the same career, under the same illustrious commander, it is more gratifying than surprising to see, that in succeeding campaigns you have reaped new laurels.

The badge of honour which commemorates your services at Salamanca, brings to our recollection those skilful operations in which you were engaged upon the Douro

previous to that memorable day, and the destruction which your cavalry poured down upon the rear guard of the enemy in their flight.

In the battle of Vittoria the British cavalry also took their part; and acting with the left wing of the allied army, under the immediate command of Lieutenant-general Sir Thomas Graham, a name never to be mentioned in our military annals without the strongest expressions of respect and admiration, your squadrons contributed to cut off the enemy from their direct retreat into France; and all Europe has heard of their consequent rout and dispersion.

To you, Sir, I am therefore commanded to express the gratitude of this House; and, in the name of the Commons of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland in Parliament assembled, I do now deliver to you their unanimous thanks, for your distinguished exertions in the battle of Salamanca, upon the 22d July 1812, which terminated in a glorious and decisive victory over the enemy's army:

And also for your great exertions upon the 21st of June last, when the French army was completely defeated by the allied forces near Vittoria, under the Marquis of Wellington's command.

Upon which Major-general ANSON said :

Sir,

This is the second time I have had the honour of rising in this distinguished assembly to receive through you, Sir, the thanks of my country, to which, and to this honourable House, I return my warmest acknowledgments.

I should not do justice to the illustrious and noble commander with whom I have had the happiness of serving, or to those brave troops under his command (whose gallantry and discipline I have had such frequent opportunities of witnessing), did I not assure you, that it is to them I consider myself indebted for being placed in this highly honourable situation: I should be greatly deficient also in what is due to myself, were I to omit expressing my sincere and most

heartfelt thanks to you, Sir, for the very gratifying manner in which you have conveyed to me the sentiments of my country on this, and on a former occasion; thus conferring upon me an additional mark of distinction which it will ever be my pride to acknowledge.



## VITTORIA AND PYRENEES:

11 Nov. 1813.

Lieutenant-general Sir *Thomas Picton*, knight of the most honourable order of the Bath, being come to the House, Mr. Speaker acquainted him with the resolutions of the House of the 7th day of July last, and of the 8th instant, respecting his services in the battle of *Vittoriā*, and in the subsequent operations of the allied armies in *Spain*; and Mr. Speaker gave him the Thanks of the House accordingly, as followeth :

Lieutenant-general Sir THOMAS PICTON,

IN this House your name has been long since enrolled amongst those who have obtained the gratitude of their country for distinguished military services; and we, this day, rejoice to see you amongst us, claiming again the tribute of our thanks for fresh exploits and achievements.

Wherever the history of the Peninsular war shall be related, your name will be

found amongst the foremost in that race of glory; by your sword the British troops were led on to the victorious assault of Ciudad Rodrigo; by your daring hand the British standard was planted upon the castle of Badajoz; when the usurper of the Spanish throne was driven to make his last stand at Vittoria, your battalions filled the centre of that formidable line, before which the veteran troops of France fled in terror and dismay; and by your skill, prudence, and valour, exerted in a critical hour, the enemy was foiled in his desperate attempt to break through the barrier of the Pyrenees, and raise the blockade of Pampluna.

For the deeds of Vittoria and the Pyrenees, this double harvest of glory in one year, the House of Commons has resolved again to give you the tribute of its thanks; and I do therefore now, in the name and by the command of the Commons of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, in Parliament assembled, deliver to you their unanimous thanks for your great exertions upon the 21st of June last, near

Vittoria, when the French army was completely defeated by the allied forces under the Marquis of Wellington's command :

And also, for the valour, steadiness, and exertion, so successfully displayed by you in repelling the repeated attacks made on the position of the allied army, by the whole French forces under the command of Marshal Soult, between the 25th July and 1st of August last.

Upon which Lieut.-general Sir THOMAS  
PICKTON said :

Sir,

Being entirely unaccustomed to speak in public, I have great difficulty in expressing the high degree of gratification that I feel at the very flattering sentiments which this honourable House has been pleased to entertain of my services, and at the very handsome manner in which they have been communicated. I have always, Sir, regarded the thanks of this honourable House as one of the highest honours which could be conferred on any officer ; as the unquestion-

able evidence of past, and the greatest incitement to future services.

But I can apply individually to myself but a small part of the high commendations which have been so liberally and handsomely bestowed: a great proportion is unquestionably due to the generals and officers commanding brigades and corps in the division, for the judgment and gallantry with which the services alluded to were invariably executed; and to the officers and troops in general, for the spirit and intrepidity which bore down all resistance, and secured complete success in all the important enterprises on which the division had the good fortune to be employed, during the whole course of the war in the Peninsula.

It will ever be the height of my pride and ambition to share the fortunes of a corps eminently conspicuous for every high military qualification, and actuated by a spirit of heroism which renders it truly invincible. With such instruments, Sir, you will easily conceive that it cannot be difficult to obtain success; and it would be unfortunate in the

extreme, if we failed entirely to reflect some of the brilliant rays of the great luminary that directed us.

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V I T T O R I A :

24 JUNE 1814.

Lieutenant-general the Honourable Sir *William Stewart*, knight of the most honourable order of the Bath, being come to the House, Mr. Speaker acquainted him, that the House had, upon the 7th day of July 1813, resolved, that the Thanks of this House be given to him, for his great exertions upon the 21st of June 1813, near *Vittoria*, when the *French* army was completely defeated by the allied forces under the Marquis of *Wellington's* command ; and Mr. Speaker gave him the Thanks of the House accordingly, as followeth :

Lieut.-general Sir WILLIAM STEWART,

I HAVE to thank you in the name of your country, for a series of signal and splendid services ; and first, for that which your gallantry achieved in the battle of *Vittoria*.



When the usurper of the Spanish crown put his fortunes to the last hazard, it was the brave second division of the allied army, directed by Lord Hill, and acting under your command, which began the operations of that memorable day, and by its irresistible valour mainly contributed to that victory, which drove back the armies of France to their own frontier, and rescued the Peninsula from its invaders and oppressors.

By your achievements in that field of glory, you enrolled your name amongst the distinguished officers upon whom this House bestowed the honour of its thanks; and I do therefore now, in the name and by the command of the Commons of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, in Parliament assembled, deliver to you their unanimous thanks, for your great exertions in the splendid and decisive victory obtained on the 21st of June 1813, near Vittoria, when the French army was completely defeated and routed, with the total loss of all its artillery, stores, and baggage.

Upon which Lieut.-general Sir WILLIAM STEWART said :

Mr. Speaker,

Unaccustomed as I am to express my sentiments before so important an assembly of my countrymen, or to receive praise for what few services I may have rendered in my profession in so liberal and so generous a manner as you have now conveyed the sense of this House, I am at a loss to make any adequate return ; I feel however deeply on this proud occasion : I should be ungrateful if I were to take to myself much of the merit that you have been pleased to ascribe to my services in the particular action in question ; for to those who gallantly supported me is the merit due. I cannot advert to that battle, and not submit to the memory, and, if I may use the term, to the affection of this House, the name of one gallant officer upon whom the brunt of the contest particularly fell ; I mean, Sir, the late Colonel Cadogan : the fall of that officer was glorious, as his last moments were marked by the success of a favourite regiment, upon the

magnanimity of whose conduct he kept his eyes fixed during the expiring hour of a well-finished life. I should be ungrateful for the services which were rendered me by Colonel Cameron and by General Byng, on that and on all occasions, if I were not thus publicly to advert to them in my present place ; for to their exertions and support am I indebted for the success of those measures of which I am reaping the rich reward from my country, at your too generous hand this day. Permit me, Sir, to repeat my gratitude for the too kind and too flattering manner in which you have communicated the sense of this House to me this day ; I should be truly ungrateful if I did not feel the honour in its full force, and I should be doubly so towards you, Sir, if I were insensible to the peculiarly distinguished mode in which you have now conferred that honour upon me.

## P Y R E N E E S :

24 JUNE 1814.

Major-general *William Henry Pringle* being also come to the House, and Lieutenant-general the Honourable Sir *William Stewart* being present, Mr. Speaker acquainted them, that the House had, upon the 8th day of November last, resolved, that the Thanks of this House be given to them for the valour, steadiness, and exertion, so successfully displayed by them in repelling the repeated attacks made on the positions of the allied army, by the whole *French* force, under the command of Marshal *Soult*, between the 25th of July and 1st of August last; and Mr. Speaker gave them the Thanks of the House accordingly, as followeth :

Lieut.-general Sir WILLIAM STEWART,  
and Major-general PRINGLE,

IT is my duty now to deliver to you conjointly the thanks of this House, for your gallant and meritorious services in those memorable actions which completed the liberation of Spain.

The inhabitants of the Pyrenees, who witnessed those mighty conflicts, will long point out to their admiring countrymen, those various heights and passes where the valour of British troops under your command at some times repelled the attacks of superior force, where at other times its steadiness effected a retreat which only led to more certain victory, and where finally it returned with an overwhelming pursuit upon the broken ranks of the enemy: they will also point out, those spots where the gallant officers whom we now see amongst us fought through long and toilsome days, where a Stewart made his stand, and where the noblest blood of Scotland was shed in its defences. The historian of those campaigns will also record that your exploits were honoured with the constant and unqualified praises of that illustrious commander, whose name stands highest upon our roll of military renown.

For your important share in those operations, this House thought fit to bestow upon you the acknowledgments of its gratitude;



and I do now accordingly, in the name and by the command of the Commons of this United Kingdom, deliver to you their unanimous thanks for the valour, steadiness, and exertion, so successfully displayed by you, in repelling the repeated attacks made on the positions of the allies, by the whole French force, under Marshal Soult, between the 25th of July and 1st of August last, and for your undaunted perseverance, by which the allied army was finally established on the frontier of France.

Upon which Lieut.-general Sir WILLIAM STEWART said :

Mr Speaker,

As I have before had the honour of stating, I must feel, Sir, that to others is due from me, while receiving the highest honour that can be bestowed on a British soldier, the report of their admirable conduct during the actions in question : supported as I was by my gallant friend on my right\*, by such

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\* Major-general Pringle.

corps as the 92d Highlanders, or the 50th British infantry, I should have been without excuse if a less firm stand had been made on the positions of the Pyrenees than was made ; I should have done injustice to the design of our great captain, and to the instructions of my own immediate commander, if I had less exerted myself than I did on these occasions.

That our endeavours have met with the approbation of our country, and have received from you, Sir, so generous an expression of that approbation, is the proudest event of our lives ; it ought and will animate us to devote our best exertions in the future service of that country.

Major-gen. WILLIAM HENRY PRINGLE then said :

Mr. Speaker,

I am highly sensible of the honour I have just received by the thanks of this House ; I consider their approbation as the most honourable reward which a military man can receive, and one far beyond what any feeble

efforts of mine can deserve. The able arrangement of the general under whom I served, and the bravery of the troops I had the honour to command, left little to be done by any exertions of mine, which I feel more than amply rewarded by the approbation of this House. The satisfaction I feel on this occasion is still further increased by the very flattering manner in which you have been pleased to communicate the thanks of the House to me.

## ORTHES AND BOURDEAUX :

24 JUNE 1814.

Lieutenant-generals Sir *Thomas Picton* and Sir *Henry Clinton*, knights of the most honourable order of the Bath, being also come to the House, and Lieutenant-general Sir *William Stewart*, and Major-general *William Henry Pringle*, being present, Mr. Speaker acquainted them that the House had, upon the 24th day of March last, resolved, that the Thanks of this House be given to them for their able and distinguished conduct throughout the operations which concluded with the entire defeat of the enemy at *Orthes* on the 27th of February last, and the occupation of *Bordeaux* by the allied forces; and Mr. Speaker gave them the Thanks of the House accordingly, as followeth :

Lieutenant-general Sir THOMAS PICTON,  
Lieutenant-general Sir WILLIAM STEWART,  
Lieutenant-general Sir HENRY CLINTON,  
and Major-general PRINGLE :

YOU stand amongst us this day to receive our thanks for great and signal victories won by British arms in the fields of France.

Descending from the Pyrenees, surmounting, in adverse seasons, all the difficulties of a country deeply intersected, and passing with unparalleled skill and boldness the formidable torrents of Navarre, after a series of arduous and sanguinary conflicts, you came up with the collected forces of the enemy, posted upon the heights of Orthes. Attacked on all sides by British valour, the troops of France at length gave way, and commenced their retreat; pressed however upon each flank, that retreat was soon changed into a flight, and that flight to a total rout: pursuing their broken legions across the Adour, and seizing upon their strong holds and accumulated resources, you then laid open your way, on the one hand to the deliverance of Bourdeaux, and on the other to the lamented but glorious day of Toulouse.

It has been your fortune to reap the latest laurels in this long and memorable war; and leading forward your victorious columns from the Tagus to the Garonne, you have witnessed, with arms in your hands, the downfall of that gigantic tyranny which your own



prowess has so materially contributed to overthrow.

Informed of these triumphant exploits, this House lost no time in recording its thanks to all who had bravely fought the battles of their country. But to those whom we glory to reckon amongst our own members, it is my duty and happiness to deliver those thanks personally. And I do now accordingly, in the name and by the command of the Commons of this United Kingdom, deliver to you their unanimous thanks for your able and distinguished conduct throughout all those operations which concluded with the entire defeat of the enemy at Orthes, and the occupation of Bourdeaux by the allied forces of Great Britain, Spain, and Portugal.

Upon which Lieut.-general Sir THOMAS PICTON said:

Mr. Speaker,

I return my thanks to this honourable House for the honour conferred upon me.

Lieut.-general Sir WILLIAM STEWART then said :

Mr. Speaker.

I feel overcome by the repeated honour which you have now conferred on me, and can but ill express what I am sensible of on this occasion of high personal honour; I can only say, Sir, that myself, as well as those who were under my command, in the memorable actions alluded to by you, Sir, did our duty to the best of our power, and have now been greatly rewarded. The most happy events have returned us to our country; and that we may act the part of good citizens, as you have been pleased to say that we have done that of good soldiers, is our next duty.

If future events call us again to the field, a circumstance that may Heaven long avert, our greatest good fortune will be to serve under the auspices of so generous a House of Commons as that which I now address; and more especially to have the generous sentiment of that House communicated through so liberal a channel as has been the case this day.

Lieutenant-general SIR HENRY CLINTON then said :

Mr. Speaker,

I am very grateful to the House for the honour which has been conferred upon me by their vote of thanks for my services in the battle of Orthes.

I feel proud to have been thought deserving of this high and distinguished reward ; and I beg, Sir, that you will accept my best thanks for the obliging terms in which you have conveyed the vote of the House.

Major-general WILLIAM HENRY PRINGLE then said :

Mr. Speaker,

I must again repeat the high sense I feel of the honour I have received, and must esteem this as the proudest day of my life, in which my conduct has twice met the approbation of this House.

PENINSULA AND SOUTHERN  
PROVINCES OF FRANCE.

1 JULY 1814.

Lord Viscount *Castlereagh* acquainted the House, that the Duke of *Wellington* having desired that he may have the honour to wait upon this House, his Grace is now in attendance.

Resolved, that the Duke of *Wellington* be now admitted.

And a chair being set for his Grace on the left hand of the bar towards the middle of the House, he came in making his obeisances, the whole House rising upon his entrance within the bar; and Mr. Speaker having informed him that there was a chair in which he might repose himself, the Duke sat down covered for some time, the Serjeant standing on his right hand with the mace grounded, and the House resumed their seats; his Grace then rose, and uncovered, spoke to the effect following:

Mr. Speaker,

I WAS anxious to be permitted to attend this House, in order to return my thanks in

person for the honour they have done me, in deputing a committee of members of this House to congratulate me on my return to this country; and this, after the House had animated my exertions by their applause upon every occasion which appeared to merit their approbation, and after they had filled up the measure of their favours by conferring upon me, at the recommendation of the Prince Regent, the noblest gift that any subject had ever received.

I hope it will not be deemed presumptuous in me to take this opportunity of expressing my admiration of the great efforts made by this House and the country, at a moment of unexampled pressure and difficulty, in order to support the great scale of operation by which the contest was brought to so fortunate a termination.

By the wise policy of Parliament, the Government were enabled to give the necessary support to the operations which were carried on under my direction; and I was encouraged by the confidence reposed in me by His Majesty's ministers and by the com-



mander in chief, by the gracious favour of his royal highness the Prince Regent, and by the reliance which I had on the support of my gallant friends, the general officers of the army, and on the bravery of the officers and troops, to carry on the operations in such a manner as to acquire for me those marks of the approbation of this House, for which I have now the honour to make my humble acknowledgments.

Sir, it is impossible for me to express the gratitude which I feel; I can only assure the House, that I shall always be ready to serve His Majesty in any capacity in which my services can be deemed useful, with the same zeal for my country, which has already acquired for me the approbation of this House.

Whereupon Mr. Speaker, who during the foregoing speech sat covered, stood up uncovered, and spoke to his Grace, as follows :

My Lord,

SINCE last I had the honour of addressing you from this place, a series of eventful years

has elapsed; but none without some mark and note of your rising glory.

The military triumphs which your valour has achieved upon the banks of the Douro and the Tagus, of the Ebro and the Garonne, have called forth the spontaneous shouts of admiring nations. Those triumphs it is needless on this day to recount. Their names have been written by your conquering sword in the annals of Europe, and we shall hand them down with exultation to our children's children.

It is not, however, the grandeur of military success, which has alone fixed our admiration, or commanded our applause; it has been that generous and lofty spirit which inspired your troops with unbounded confidence, and taught them to know that the day of battle was always a day of victory; that moral courage and enduring fortitude which, in perilous times when gloom and doubt had beset ordinary minds, stood nevertheless unshaken; and that ascendancy of character, which uniting the energies of jealous and rival nations, enabled you to

wield at will the fates and fortunes of mighty empires.

For the repeated thanks and grants bestowed upon you by this House, in gratitude for your many and eminent services, you have thought fit this day to offer us your acknowledgments; but this nation well knows that it is still largely your debtor; it owes to you the proud satisfaction, that amidst the constellation of great and illustrious warriors who have recently visited our country, we could present to them a leader of our own, to whom all, by common acclamation, conceded the pre-eminence; and when the will of Heaven, and the common destinies of our nature, shall have swept away the present generation, you will have left your great name and example as an imperishable monument, exciting others to like deeds of glory, and serving at once to adorn, defend, and perpetuate, the existence of this country amongst the ruling nations of the earth.

It now remains only, that we congratulate your Grace upon the high and important mission on which you are about to proceed: and

we doubt not that the same splendid talents, so conspicuous in war, will maintain, with equal authority, firmness and temper, our national honour and interests in peace.

And then his Grace withdrew, making his obeisances in like manner as upon entering the House, and the whole House rising again whilst his Grace was re-conducted by the Serjeant from his chair to the door of the House.

## ORTHES AND BOURDEAUX.

Major-general *Henry Fane* being come to the House, Mr. Speaker acquainted him that the House had, upon the 24th day of March last, resolved, that the Thanks of this House be given to him for his able and distinguished conduct throughout the operations which concluded with the entire defeat of the enemy at *Orthes* on the 27th of February last, and the occupation of *Bordeaux* by the allied forces; and Mr. Speaker gave him the Thanks of the House accordingly, as followeth:

Major-general FANE,

IT has been your fortune to bear a conspicuous part in the earliest and latest actions of the Peninsular war; and having now closed your services upon the Continent, by re-conducting the whole British cavalry through France, you have this day to receive our thanks for your exertions in the great and decisive battle of *Orthes*.

In that battle, the enemy, formidably collected, and strongly posted on ground of its own choice, nevertheless, when assailed on



all sides by the valour of the allies, was compelled to seek for safety in retreat; but the conqueror had resolved that their defeat should be also their destruction; and the gallant commander, whose name has since been ennobled by his Sovereign for his exploits at Almaraz, pressing hard upon the enemy's retiring march, the British cavalry, under your command, bore down upon his broken battalions, and completed the victory.

Distinguished long since by deeds achieved in Portugal and Spain, you have now obtained fresh trophies won by your sword in France. Three times already you have claimed and received our thanks; we have thanked you for your gallantry on the days of Roleia and Vimiera, in the glorious stand at Corunna, and in the hard-fought field of Talavera: and I do now also, in the name and by the command of the Commons of Great Britain and Ireland, in Parliament assembled, deliver to you their unanimous thanks for your able and distinguished conduct throughout those operations, which

concluded with the entire defeat of the enemy at Orthes, and the occupation of Bourdeaux by the allied forces.

Upon which Major-general FANE said :

Mr. Speaker,

I am most sensible of my good fortune in having been, for the third time, deemed worthy of the thanks of Parliament.

Although I am quite unequal to express in proper terms the high sense I entertain of the honours conferred upon me, yet I trust that the House will believe that I feel them as I ought.

Major-general Lord *Edward Somerset* being also come to the House, Mr. Speaker acquainted him that the House had, upon the 24th day of March last, resolved, that the Thanks of this House be given to him for his able and distinguished conduct throughout the operations which concluded with the entire defeat of the enemy at *Orthes* on the 27th of February last, and the occupation of *Bordeaux* by the allied forces; and Mr. Speaker gave him the Thanks of the House accordingly, as followeth :

Major-general Lord EDWARD SOMERSET,

YOUR name also stands recorded amongst those distinguished officers whose gallantry was conspicuous in the last great action which called forth the strength and valour of the British cavalry.

In defiance of the early scoffs of an insulting enemy, this nation has, during the late continental war, re-established its military character, and vindicated its ancient renown. The nobility of England sent forth its sons to the tented field, and there, trained up under the great commanders who have obtained and

dignified the honours of the peerage, they have acted throughout upon the just persuasion that, in this free country, the willing tribute of respect paid to high rank and birth can only be secured by a continued display of the same great qualities which ennobled the founders of their race.

The profession of arms, which you had gallantly chosen, you have successfully pursued; and in those provinces of France where your ancestors, of noblest descent and royal alliance, have in former ages fought, conquered, and governed, you have renewed by your own sword the claims of your illustrious house to the respect and gratitude of your country. I do therefore now, in the name and by the command of the Commons of Great Britain and Ireland, in Parliament assembled, deliver to you their unanimous thanks for your able and distinguished conduct throughout the operations which concluded with the entire defeat of the enemy at Orthes, and the occupation of Bourdeaux by the allied forces.

Upon which Major-general Lord EDWARD SOMERSET said:

Mr. Speaker,

Deeply impressed as I am with the high honour which has just been conferred upon me, I feel totally incapable of expressing my gratitude in adequate terms.

The thanks of this House, which must at all times be received with the most lively sentiments of satisfaction, have been rendered doubly gratifying to me by the handsome manner in which you, Sir, have been pleased to express them.

Commanding British troops, and holding that command under the Duke of Wellington, a British general can never fail of supporting the character of the British arms. It is to this favourable circumstance, more than to any merit of my own, that I consider myself indebted for the high distinction which I have this day received.

Sir, I can only repeat, that I shall ever entertain the highest sense of the honour conferred upon me by this House.



## W A T E R L O O :

29 APRIL 1816.

Major-general Lord *Edward Somerset*, K. C. B., being come to the House, Mr. Speaker acquainted him that the House had, upon the 23d day of June, in the last Session of Parliament, resolved, that the Thanks of this House be given to him for his indefatigable zeal and exertions upon the 18th of June, when the French army, commanded by *Buonaparté*, received a signal and complete defeat; and Mr. Speaker gave him the Thanks of the House accordingly, as followeth :

Major-general Lord EDWARD SOMERSET,

AT length we are gratified by seeing amongst us one of those distinguished officers to whom this House has voted its thanks, for their eminent services in the battle of Waterloo; a victory eclipsing the fame of all other battles fought in those celebrated fields of war, and consummating the glory of the Duke of Wellington, with whose great name the gratitude of this House has

justly associated that of Field Marshal Blücher.

In the narratives of that gigantic conflict, our historians will always relate, that Major-general Lord Edward Somerset, already known by his brilliant services in the southern provinces of France, held a high and forward command in those gallant charges by the British cavalry, which defeated and destroyed the boasted squadrons of cuirassiers. They will relate also, that Lieutenant-general Sir Henry Clinton, who had in five former battles commanded divisions of that heroic army which rescued Portugal and Spain, maintained a conspicuous post in the support of that embattled line, where the British guards repulsed and put to flight the imperial guards of France. Nor will those other illustrious men be forgotten, who might now have been standing up amongst us to receive our thanks, if the fate of war had not laid them low in their grave of glory, soldiers long dear to the affections and remembrance of their country, which will never cease to revere and regret the veteran

but ardent valour of Picton, or the bright and rising honours of Ponsonby.

The days, indeed, of these our mingled triumphs and griefs are now concluded. Other scenes have opened, and other cares have arisen to demand our vigilance. From the long contest, however, now happily closed, this durable advantage has resulted to our country: we have proved to ourselves the value of those manly habits and institutions which have established the superiority of our national character; and such splendid examples of skill, valour, and constancy, as we have had this day to commemorate, will deeply impress upon our enemies, and upon our allies, in all ages, a just respect for the counsels and arms of this empire.

The special duty which I have this day to discharge, is to deliver to you the thanks of this House for your last great services. And I do therefore now, in the name and by the command of the Commons of Great Britain and Ireland in Parliament assembled, deliver to you their unanimous thanks for your indefatigable zeal and exertions upon the 18th

of June 1815, when the French army, commanded by Buonaparté, received a signal and complete defeat.

Upon which Lord EDWARD SOMERSET said:

Mr. Speaker,

I beg to express to the House the high sense I entertain of so distinguished a mark of its approbation, conferred upon me for my conduct in the memorable battle of Waterloo. Deeply impressed with the importance of such an honour, I am conscious that I want words to convey, in adequate terms, my sentiments on this occasion. Sir, whatever merit my humble exertions in this great conflict may be deemed entitled to, I cannot but attribute to the fortunate circumstance of my being placed in command of a brigade, whose persevering gallantry, discipline, and intrepidity, contributed so largely to the success of this important day. Animated by the example of that great man, under whose command we had the honour to serve, and who had so often led us to victory and to

honour, every individual of the British army was naturally inspired with but one feeling; that feeling, and a well-grounded confidence in their commander, enabled them to surmount the most formidable obstacles, and to bring the contest to a successful issue. That it was my lot to form part of the army on that day, and that my conduct should be deemed worthy of receiving the thanks of this House, will be ever to me a source of the utmost satisfaction, and will be remembered with pride and gratitude to the latest period of my existence.

I cannot conclude without expressing to you, Sir, how sensible I am of the flattering terms in which you have been pleased to communicate to me the resolutions of the House on this occasion.



SALAMANCA, VITTORIA, PYRENEES,  
AND ORTHES.

20 MAY 1816.

Lieutenant-general the Honourable Sir *Galbraith Lowry Cole*, knight grand cross of the most honourable order of the Bath, being come to the House, Mr. Speaker acquainted him with the resolutions of the House, of the 3d day of December 1812, of the 7th day of July and 8th day of November 1813, and of the 24th day of March 1814, respecting his services in the battles of *Salamanca* and *Vittoria*, in the *Pyrenees*, and at *Orthes*; and Mr. Speaker gave him the Thanks of the House accordingly, as followeth:

Lieutenant-general Sir LOWRY COLE,

ALTHOUGH the time which elapsed between the close of your service in the Peninsula, and your appearance in this House, would in ordinary cases have precluded me from delivering to you its thanks from this place, nevertheless, your distinguished name and actions have, in a manner highly honourable

to you, induced this House to depart from its usual course ; justly desirous that, in terminating such a war, no demonstration of its gratitude should be wanting towards those who have deserved it so well.

Having acquired the early rudiments of your profession in foreign countries, reputed then the best schools of the military art, and having matured that knowledge by practical experience through various campaigns in Egypt, Italy, Portugal, and Spain, you first appeared amongst us to claim our thanks for your prompt and decisive conduct in the Battle of Albuera.

In that victorious army which re-established the thrones of our allies, though all were brave, yet, by the fortune of war, the skill and valour of some were rendered conspicuous above the rest ; and the gallant fourth division was distinguished throughout, by the highest praises, for its enthusiastic courage and heroic devotion.

Of that division, to which all eyes were turned in every battle, you, Sir, had the chief command ; and your growing renown

was well supported by many brave companions in arms, whose names will for ever live in our annals.

So supported, and led on by the greatest captain of our times, you shared in each successive struggle and triumph which marked his progress, from the frontiers of Portugal, at Salamanca, at Vittoria, in the Pyrenees, and at Orthes, to the final establishment of his standard within the antient provinces of France.

For these numerous and splendid services it is now my gratifying duty to deliver to you the thanks of your country ; and I do now, therefore, in the name and by the command of the Commons of Great Britain and Ireland, in Parliament assembled, deliver to you their unanimous thanks :

“ For your distinguished exertions in the battle of Salamanca, on the 22d of July 1812, which terminated in a glorious and decisive victory over the enemy’s army.”

And also, “ for your great exertions upon the 21st of June 1813, when the French army were completely defeated by the allied forces

under the Marquess of Wellington's command," near Vittoria.

And also, "for the valour, steadiness, and exertion, so successfully displayed by you, in repelling the repeated attacks made on the positions of our allied army by the whole French force, under the command of Marshal Soult, between the 25th of July and the 1st of August 1813," in the Pyrenees.

And lastly, "for your able and distinguished conduct throughout those operations, which concluded with the entire defeat of the enemy at Orthes, on the 27th of February 1814, and the occupation of Bourdeaux by the allied forces."

Upon which Lieut.-general Sir GALBRAITH  
LOWRY COLE said :

Sir,

To be considered by the representatives of my country as deserving their thanks, has been, and will ever, I trust, be the chief ambition of my life ; and gratified and flattered as I ought and do feel, Sir, by the very high honour which you have just communicated

to me, no man is more sensible than myself what little intrinsic merit there is in obtaining credit under the eye of the Duke of Wellington, and in the command of such troops as composed the fourth division of the late army in the Peninsula, whose enthusiastic gallantry (words used by his Grace in his dispatches after the battle of the Pyreness) at all times, and under any circumstance, during the last five years of that arduous war, deserved and obtained his Grace's approbation; and to which I feel conscious I am principally indebted for the honour now conferred upon me by this House, and for my reputation as a soldier.

If any thing can add to my sense of that honour, it is the flattering terms in which you, Sir, have been pleased to communicate it to me, and for which I beg to return you my most sincere thanks.



## WATERLOO,

20 May 1816.

Lieutenant-general Sir *Henry Clinton*, knight grand cross of the most honourable order of the Bath, being come to the House, Mr. Speaker acquainted him that the House had, upon the 23d day of June, in the last session of Parliament, resolved, that the Thanks of this House be given to him for his indefatigable zeal and exertions upon the 18th of June 1815, when the French army, commanded by *Buonaparté*, received a signal and complete defeat ; and Mr. Speaker gave him the Thanks of the House accordingly, as followeth ;

Lieutenant-general Sir HENRY CLINTON,

AFTER serving through the long campaigns of the Peninsular war, from Salamanca to Orthes and Toulouse, there remained nothing for a soldier to desire, but to be present at the great battle of Waterloo ; and if, in that terrible conflict, it were possible to select one spot more than another where our national military character was put to its fiercest trial, it must have been that where

you were commanding, with Hougomont in your front, and directing or supporting the brave brigades of Byng, Maitland, and Adam.

In estimating the services of that gallant army, this country has not contemplated alone the glory of a single day; they have looked to the toilsome marches and sharp combats which preceded it, and to the steady, skilful, and victorious march by which that army completed its success, and entered the enemy's capital. They have seen also, with a just exultation, that whilst British troops held the gates of Paris, by right of conquest, their camp displayed at the same time a model of good order and well-regulated discipline, which even the conquered could not but applaud and admire.

Your present stay amongst us we understand to be only for a short period: but on returning to your brethren in arms, let them be assured by you, that whenever their foreign service shall terminate, they will find that their great deeds have not been forgotten by us: and we trust, that on re-

entering the metropolis of their native country, they will behold some lofty and durable monument, which shall commemorate to the latest ages, our never-ending gratitude to the armies who have fought for us, and the God who has delivered us.

You, Sir, are the last of those distinguished officers to whom our thanks have remained undelivered ; and I do now, in the name and by the command of the Commons of Great Britain and Ireland, in Parliament assembled, deliver to you their unanimous thanks for your indefatigable zeal and exertions upon the 18th of June 1815, when the French army, commanded by Buonaparté, received a signal and complete defeat.

Upon which Lieut.-general Sir HENRY CLINTON said :

Mr. Speaker,

I am extremely grateful to the House for the honour which has been conferred upon me by the vote of its thanks for my services in the battle of Waterloo, a reward to which you, Sir, so well know how to give the full

value ; and I wish to assure you, Sir, that I am fully sensible of the favour I have received at your hands.

It is impossible for me to mention the name of Waterloo, and not to feel an irresistible desire to join in the general voice of gratitude to the hero who commanded us, and in that of admiration of the extraordinary talents which he has so long and so usefully devoted to the service of his country.

An army hastily drawn together, composed of the troops of various nations, and amongst which were counted several brigades of inexperienced militia, was the force which the Duke of Wellington had to oppose to one of the most formidable and best appointed armies which France ever produced.

Every officer and soldier, I am persuaded, did his duty, but the Duke of Wellington alone was capable of giving union to such a force. No other man living could have rendered the service he performed, with an army so composed.

His great name filled it with confidence ; by his constant vigilance, his undaunted

firmness, and the exertion of the greatest intrepidity and perseverance, he was able, throughout that well-contested day, to defeat every effort of a powerful and enterprizing enemy, and ultimately to gain that victory by which he restored peace to Europe, and increased, to the impossibility of our ever acquitting it, his country's debt of gratitude.



# EXTRACTS

FROM

LONDON GAZETTES EXTRAORDINARY.

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# Appendix.

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## Copenhagen.

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London Gazette Extraordinary, 16 Sept. 1807.

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### *Copy of a Letter from Lord Cathcart.*

My Lord,

Citadel of Copenhagen,  
Sept. 8, 1807.

IT has fallen to my lot to have the great satisfaction of forwarding to your lordship the ratified capitulation of the town and citadel of Copenhagen, including the surrender of the Danish fleet and arsenal in this port, which are placed at His Majesty's disposal.

The object of securing this fleet having been attained, every other provision of a tendency to wound the feelings or irritate the nation has been avoided; and although the bombardment and cannonade have made considerable havoc and destruction in the town, not one shot was fired into it till after it was summoned, with the offer

of the most advantageous terms, nor a single shot after the first indication of a disposition to capitulate; on the contrary, the firing which lasted three nights from His Majesty's batteries was considerably abated on the 2d, and was only renewed on the 3d to its full vigour, on supposing from the quantity of shells thrown from the place that there was a determination to hold out.

On the evening of the 5th September, a letter was sent by the Danish general to propose an armistice of twenty-four hours, for preparing an agreement on which articles of capitulation might be founded. The armistice was declined as tending to unnecessary delay, and the works were continued; but the firing was countermanded, and lieutenant-colonel Murray was sent to explain that no proposal of capitulation could be listened to, unless accompanied by the surrender of the fleet.

This basis having been admitted by a subsequent letter, on the 6th major-general Sir Arthur Wellesley, whom I had sent for, for this purpose, from his command in the country, where he had distinguished himself in a manner so honourable to himself and so advantageous to the public, was appointed, with Sir Home Popham and lieutenant-colonel Murray, to prepare and sign articles of capitulation; and those officers having insisted on proceeding immediately to business, the capitu-

lation was drawn up in the night between the 6th and 7th.

The ratification was exchanged in the course of the morning, and at four in the afternoon of the same day, lieutenant-general Burrard proceeded to take possession.

The British grenadiers present, with detachments from all the other corps of cavalry and infantry, under the command of colonel Cameron of the 79th regiment, with two brigades of artillery, marched into the citadel, while major-general Spencer having embarked his brigade at the Kalk Brandiere, landed in the dock-yard, and took possession of each of the line-of-battle ships, and of all the arsenal; the Danish guards withdrawing when those of His Majesty were ready to replace them, and proper officers attending to deliver stores as far as inventories could be made up.

The town being in a state of the greatest ferment and disorder, I most willingly acceded to the request that our troops should not be quartered in it, and that neither officers or soldiers should enter it for some days; and having the command of possession from the citadel whenever it might be necessary to use it, I had no objection to leaving the other gates in the hands of the troops of his Danish Majesty, together with the police of the place.

We have consented to the re-establishment of



the post ; but all arrivals and departures are to be at and from the citadel.

This work is in good condition, very strong, and well stored with ordnance and ammunition.

The amount of the garrison of the town is not easily ascertained. The regular troops were not numerous ; but the number of batteries which fired at the same time, together with the floating defences, prove that there must have been a very great number of militia and burghers, with other irregular forces ; and their ordnance was well served.

Considering the advanced position in which His Majesty's troops have been placed for the last fortnight, our loss (highly as I prize the value of every officer or soldier who has fallen or been wounded) has been comparatively small.

The zeal, spirit and perseverance of every rank in the army have been truly characteristic of the British nation ; and the King's German Legion are entitled to a full share in this commendation.

All the generals, and indeed each officer, has rendered himself conspicuous in proportion to his command and the opportunities which have occurred, and opportunities have occurred to all.

The staff have done themselves the greatest credit, and been of all the service that could be desired in their several departments.

Colonel D'Arcey, the chief engineer, and every engineer under him, have given the most unequivocal proofs of science and indefatigable industry; the works under their direction have gone on with fresh parties without ceasing.

General Bloomfield, and the officers and corps of Royal Artillery, have done great honor to themselves, and to that branch of His Majesty's service, of which their fire upon the gun-boats, and the rapidity and success of the mortar practice, afford sufficient proofs; nor is the distribution of battering ordnance, and of so much ammunition at so many points in this extensive line, in so short a period, a small proof of the method and resources of that corps.

Lieutenant-colonel Smith, with the 82d regiment under his command, held the post at the windmill on the left, which for the greater part of the time was the most exposed to the gun-boats and sorties of the enemy; and the unremitting attentions of that officer claim particular notice.

By the naval blockade the force opposed to us has been limited to the resources of this and of the adjacent islands, separated only by narrow ferries; and almost every wish of assistance has been anticipated, and every requisition of boats, guns and stores has been most amply and effectually provided for, with the greatest dispatch and the most perfect cordiality; and every possible

attention has been paid, and every accommodation given, by every officer in that service, from Admiral Gambier downwards.

A battalion of seamen and marines, with three divisions of carpenters, were landed on the 5th, under captain Watson of His Majesty's ship *Inflexible*; and had the effort been made, which would have been resorted to in a few days, if the place had not capitulated, their services in the passage of the ditch would have been distinguished.

I send this dispatch by lieutenant Cathcart, who has become for some time my first aid-de-camp, who has seen every thing that has occurred here and at Stralsund, and will be able to give any further details that may be required.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(signed) CATHCART.

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London Gazette Extraordinary, 31st October 1807.

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Admiralty-Office, October 31, 1807.

*Copy of a Letter from Admiral Gambier to the Honourable William Wellesley Pole, dated on board His Majesty's Ship the Prince of Wales, off Copenhagen, the 20th October 1807.*

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acquaint you, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the

Admiralty, that the whole of the Danish fleet being equipped, (except two unserviceable ships of the line and two frigates, which have been destroyed), and the arsenal cleared of the stores, the army has been re-embarked ; and that I shall proceed with the first favourable wind to carry into execution the instructions I have received from the Lord Viscount Castlereagh.

Having so far accomplished the service on which I have been employed, I feel it my duty to state the great activity, energy and zeal which have been shown by vice-admiral Stanhope and rear-admiral Sir Samuel Hood, in superintending the equipment of the Danish ships and the embarkation of the stores from the arsenal ; nor has the same spirit been less manifest in the captains, officers, seamen and marines, who have all executed their respective parts in the general exertion with a promptitude and alacrity, which has not only entitled them to my warmest thanks and praise, but will I doubt not, when the aggregate result of their labour is considered, obtain for them the approbation of their sovereign, and the applause of the nation.

In the space of six weeks, sixteen sail of the line, nine frigates, fourteen sloops of war and smaller vessels, besides gun-boats, have been fitted for sea, and all the large ships laden with masts, spars, timber, and other stores, from the



arsenal, from whence also ninety-two cargoes have been shipped on board transports, and other vessels chartered for the purpose, the sum of whose burthen exceeds twenty thousand tons. A considerable number of masts and spars have been put on board the *Leyden* and *Inflexible*, which were well adapted for this purpose, and some valuable stores on board His Majesty's ships; nor can I forbear to remark, that such was the emulation among the several ships of the fleet to which the Danish ships were respectively attached for equipment, that within nine days, fourteen sail of the line were brought out of the harbour, although several of them underwent, in our hands, considerable repairs. Of the three ships on the stocks two have been taken to pieces, and the useful part of their timbers brought away; and the third, being in a considerable state of forwardness, was sawed in various parts, and suffered to fall over.

On a review of the whole, I think it may be asserted, without derogating from the merit of any former service, that the characteristic activity of British officers, seamen, and marines, was never more zealously exerted than on this occasion; but I must not omit at the same time to inform their Lordships, that a very considerable proportion of the labour of the arsenal has been performed with equal zeal and energy, by large working parties



from the army, whose exertions entitle them to the same praise.

I beg leave to express the great satisfaction I have felt from the zealous and attentive services of Rear-admiral Essington, to whom the general superintendence of the numerous transports, and the re-embarkation of the army, with all its artillery and stores, has been committed.

I embrace this opportunity to make a particular acknowledgement of the very able and judicious dispositions which rear-admiral Keats has made from time to time of the force under his command, for guarding the Belt; and the vigilant attention which his whole squadron has paid to this important branch of the service.

Sir Home Popham has not ceased to manifest his usual zeal and ability in the assistance he has rendered me in the various services of the fleet; and I should not do justice to the diligent attention and arduous endeavours of captain Mackenzie to fulfil the civil duties of the arsenal, which were committed to his management and superintendence, if I did not, on this occasion, express my warm approbation of his exertions, and I beg leave to recommend him to their Lordships' favourable notice.

I have the honour to transmit herewith a list of the Danish ships and vessels which have been brought away, and of those destroyed. The

account of the stores shipped from the arsenal shall also be sent as soon as the several returns can be collected and arranged.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(signed) J. GAMBIER.

*N. B.*—The list of the Danish ships found at Copenhagen has been already published.—Two ships of the line and two frigates have been destroyed.

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### Roleia.

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London Gazette Extraordinary, 3d September 1808.

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#### *Letter from Sir Arthur Wellesley.*

Head Quarters, at Villa Verde,

My Lord,

August 17, 1808.

THE French general Laborde having continued in his position at Roleia since my arrival at Caldas on the 15th instant, I determined to attack him in it this morning. Roleia is situated on an eminence, having a plain in its front, at the end of a valley, which commences at Caldas, and is closed to the southward by mountains, which join the hills, forming the valley on the left, looking from Caldas. In the centre of the valley, and

about eight miles from Roleia, is the town and old Moorish fort of Œbidos, from whence the enemy's piquets had been driven on the 15th, and from that time he had posts in the hills on both sides of the valley, as well as in the plain in front of his army, which was posted on the heights in front of Roleia, its right resting upon the hills, its left upon an eminence on which was a wind-mill, and the whole covering four or five passes into the mountains in his rear.

I have reason to believe that his force consisted of at least six thousand men, of which about five hundred were cavalry, with five pieces of cannon; and there was some reason to believe that general Loison, who was at Rio Major yesterday, would join general Laborde by his right in the course of the night. The plan of attack was formed accordingly, and the army having broken up from Caldas this morning, was formed into three columns; the right, consisting of twelve hundred Portuguese infantry and fifty Portuguese cavalry, destined to turn the enemy's left and penetrate into the mountains in his rear; the left, consisting of major-general Ferguson's and brigadier-general Bowes's brigades of infantry, three companies of riflemen, a brigade of light artillery, and twenty British and twenty Portuguese cavalry, was destined, under the command of major-general Ferguson, to ascend the hills at Œbidos, to turn all

the enemy's posts on the left of the valley, as well as the right of his post at Roleia ; this corps was also destined to watch the motions of general Loison, on the enemy's right, who I had heard had moved from Rio Major towards Alcoentré last night. The centre column, consisting of major-general Hill's, brigadier-general Nightingale's, brigadier-general Craufurd's, and brigadier-general Fane's brigades, (with the exception of the riflemen detached with major-general Ferguson), and four hundred Portuguese light infantry, the British and Portuguese cavalry, a brigade of nine-pounders, and a brigade of six-pounders, were destined to attack general Laborde's position in front.

The columns being formed, the troops moved from Œbidos about seven o'clock in the morning. Brigadier-general Fane's riflemen were immediately detached into the hills on the left of the valley, to keep up the communication between the centre and left columns, and to protect the march of the former along the valley ; and the enemy's posts were successively driven in. Major-general Hill's brigade, formed in three columns of battalions, moved on the right of the valley, supported by the cavalry, in order to attack the enemy's left, and brigadier-generals Nightingale and Craufurd moved with the artillery along the high road, until at length the former formed in



the plain immediately in the enemy's front, supported by the light infantry companies and the 45th regiment of brigadier-general Craufurd's brigade, while the two other regiments of this brigade (the 50th and 91st), and half of the nine-pounder brigade, were kept as a reserve in the rear.

Major-general Hill and brigadier-general Nightingale advanced upon the enemy's position, and at the same moment brigadier-general Fane's riflemen were in the hills on his right ; the Portuguese infantry in a village upon his left ; and major-general Ferguson's column was descending from the heights into the plain. From this situation the enemy retired by the passes into the mountains with the utmost regularity and the greatest celerity ; and notwithstanding the rapid advance of the British infantry, the want of a sufficient body of cavalry was the cause of his suffering but little loss in the plain.

It was then necessary to make a disposition to attack the formidable position which he had taken up. Brigadier-general Fane's riflemen were already in the mountains on his right, and no time was lost in attacking the different passes, as well to support the riflemen as to defeat the enemy completely.

The Portuguese infantry were ordered to move up a pass on the right of the whole ; the light companies of major-general Hill's brigade and the



5th regiment moved up a pass next on the right ; and the 29th regiment, supported by the 9th regiment, under brigadier-general Nightingale, a third pass ; and the 45th and 82d regiments, passes on the left. These passes were all difficult of access, and some of them were well defended by the enemy, particularly that which was attacked by the 29th and 9th regiments. These regiments attacked with the greatest impetuosity, and reached the enemy before those whose attacks were to be made on their flanks : the defence of the enemy was desperate, and it was in this attack principally that we sustained the loss which we have to lament, particularly of that gallant officer the honourable lieutenant-colonel Lake, who distinguished himself upon this occasion.

The enemy was, however, driven from all the positions he had taken in the passes of the mountains, and our troops were advanced in the plains on their tops. For a considerable length of time the 29th and 9th regiments alone were advanced to this point, with brigadier-general Fane's riflemen at a distance on the left ; and they were afterwards supported by the 5th regiment, and by the light companies of major-general Hill's brigade, which had come up on their right, and by the other troops ordered to ascend the mountains, who came up by degrees. The enemy here made three most gallant attacks upon the 29th and 9th

regiments, supported as I have above stated, with a view to cover the retreat of his defeated army ; in all of which he was however repulsed : but he succeeded in effecting his retreat in good order, owing principally to my want of cavalry, and secondly, to the difficulty of bringing up the passes of the mountains with celerity a sufficient number of troops and of cannon to support those which had first ascended. The loss of the enemy has, however, being very great, and he left three pieces of cannon in our hands.

I cannot sufficiently applaud the conduct of the troops throughout this action. The enemy's positions were formidable, and he took them up with his usual ability and celerity, and defended them most gallantly. But I must observe, that although we had such a superiority of numbers employed in the operations of this day, the troops actually engaged in the heat of the action were, from unavoidable circumstances, only the 5th, 9th, 29th, the riflemen of the 95th and 60th, and the flank companies of major-general Hill's brigade, being a number by no means equal to that of the enemy ; their conduct therefore deserves the highest commendation.

I cannot avoid to take this opportunity of expressing my acknowledgments for the aid and support I received from all the general and other officers of this army. I am particularly indebted to major-general Spencer, for the advice and

assistance I received from him ; to major-general Ferguson, for the manner in which he led the left column ; and to major-general Hill, and brigadier-generals Nightingale and Fane, for the manner in which they conducted the different attacks which they led. I derived most material assistance also from lieutenant-colonel Tucker and lieutenant-colonel Bathurst, in the offices of deputy-adjutant and deputy quartermaster-general, and from the officers of the staff employed under them. I must also mention that I had every reason to be satisfied with the artillery under lieutenant-colonel Robe.

I have the honour to enclose herewith a return of killed, wounded and missing.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(signed)      ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

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*Abstract of Killed, Wounded and Missing.*

Four officers, killed ; 20 officers, wounded ; 4 officers, missing : 3 non-commissioned officers and drummers, killed ; 20 non-commissioned officers and drummers, wounded ; 2 non-commissioned officers and drummers, missing : 63 rank and file, killed ; 295 rank and file, wounded ; 68 rank and file, missing : 1 horse, killed ; 2 horses, wounded.

Total officers, non-commissioned officers, rank and file, and horses, killed, wounded and missing, 482.

G. B. Tucker, Dep. Adj. Gen.

## Vimiera.

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*Letter from Lieutenant-general Sir A. Wellesley  
to Lieutenant-general Sir H. Burrard.*

Sir,

Vimiera, August 21, 1808.

I HAVE the honour to report to you, that the enemy attacked us in our position at Vimiera this morning.

The village of Vimiera stands in a valley, through which runs the river Maceira ; at the back, and to the westward and northward of this village is a mountain, the western point of which touches the sea, and the eastern is separated by a deep ravine from the heights, over which passes the road which leads from Lourinha and the northward to Vimiera. The greater part of the infantry, the 1st, 2d, 3d, 4th, 5th, and 8th brigades, were posted on this mountain, with eight pieces of artillery ; major-general Hill's brigade being on the right, major-general Ferguson's on the left, having one battalion on the heights, separated from the mountain. On the eastern and southern side of the town is a hill which is entirely commanded, particularly on its right, by the mountain to the westward of the town, and commanding all the ground in the neighbourhood to the south-



ward and eastward, on which brigadier-general Fane was posted with his riflemen and the 50th regiment, and brigadier-general Anstruther with his brigade, with half a brigade of six-pounders and half a brigade of nine-pounders, which had been ordered to the position in the course of last night. The ground over which passes the road from Lourinha commanded the left of this height, and it had not been occupied, excepting by a piquet, as the camp had been taken up only for one night ; and there was no water in the neighbourhood of this height.

The cavalry and the reserve of artillery were in the valley, between the hills on which the infantry stood ; both flanking and supporting brigadier-general Fane's advanced guard.

The enemy first appeared at eight o'clock in the morning, in large bodies of cavalry on our left upon the heights on the road to Lourinha, and it was soon obvious that the attack would be made upon our advanced guard and the left of our position ; and major-general Ferguson's brigade was immediately moved across the ravine to the heights, on the road to Lourinha, with three pieces of cannon : he was followed successively by brigadier-general Nightingale with his brigade, and three pieces of cannon ; brigadier-general Ackland with his brigade, and brigadier-general Bowes with his brigade. These troops were formed



(major-general Ferguson's brigade in the first line ; brigadier-general Nightingale's in the second ; and brigadier-general Bowes's and Ackland's, in columns in the rear) on those heights, with their right upon the valley which leads into Vimiera, and their left upon the other ravine, which separates these heights from the range which terminates at the landing-place at Maceira. On these last-mentioned heights, the Portuguese troops which had been in the bottom near Vimiera, were posted in the first instance, and they were supported by brigadier-general's Craufurd's brigade.

The troops of the advanced guard on the height to the southward and eastward of the town were deemed sufficient for its defence, and major-general Hill was moved to the centre of the mountain on which the great body of the infantry had been posted, as a support to these troops, and as a reserve to the whole army. In addition to this support, these troops had that of the cavalry in the rear of their right.

The enemy's attack began in several columns upon the whole of the troops on this height ; on the left they advanced, notwithstanding the fire of the riflemen, close to the 50th regiment, and were checked and driven back only by the bayonets of that corps. The second battalion, 43d regiment, was likewise closely engaged with them in the road which leads into Vimiera ; a part of that

corps having been ordered into the church-yard to prevent them from penetrating into the town. On the right of the position they were repulsed by the bayonets of the 97th regiment, which corps was successfully supported by the second battalion 52d regiment, which, by an advance in column, took the enemy in flank.

Besides this opposition given to the attack of the enemy on our advanced guard by their own exertions, they were attacked in flank by brigadier-general Ackland's brigade in its advance to its position on the heights on the left, and a cannonade was kept up on the flank of the enemy's columns by the artillery on those heights.

At length, after a most desperate contest, the enemy was driven back in confusion from this attack with the loss of seven pieces of cannon, many prisoners, and a great number of officers and soldiers killed and wounded. He was pursued by the detachment of the 20th light dragoons, but the enemy's cavalry were so much superior in numbers that this detachment has suffered much, and lieutenant-colonel Taylor was unfortunately killed.

Nearly at the same time the enemy's attack commenced upon the heights on the road to Lourinha. This attack was supported by a large body of cavalry, and was made with the usual impetuosity of the French troops. It was received with steadiness by major-general Fergu-

son's brigade, consisting of the 36th, 40th, and 71st regiments ; and these corps charged as soon as the enemy approached them, who gave way, and they continued to advance upon him, supported by the 82d, one of the corps of brigadier-general Nightingale's brigade, which, as the ground extended, afterwards formed a part of the first line, by the 29th regiment, and by brigadier-general Bowes's and Ackland's brigades, while brigadier-general Craufurd's brigade, and the Portuguese troops in two lines, advanced along the height on the left. In the advance of major-general Ferguson's brigade six pieces of cannon were taken from the enemy, with many prisoners, and vast numbers were killed and wounded.

The enemy afterwards made an attempt to recover a part of his artillery by attacking the 71st and 82d regiments, which were halted in a valley in which it had been taken. These regiments retired from the low grounds in the valley to the heights, where they halted, faced about, fired, and advanced upon the enemy, who had by that time arrived in the low ground, and they thus obliged him again to retire with great loss.

In this action, in which the whole of the French force in Portugal was employed under the command of the Duke d'Abrantes in person, in which the enemy was certainly superior in cavalry and artillery, and in which not more than half of the

British army was actually engaged, he has sustained a signal defeat, and has lost thirteen pieces of cannon, twenty-three ammunition waggons, with powder, shells, stores of all descriptions, and twenty thousand rounds of musket ammunition. One general officer (Beniere) has been wounded and taken prisoner, and a great many officers and soldiers have been killed, wounded, and taken.

The valour and discipline of His Majesty's troops have been conspicuous upon this occasion, as you, who witnessed the greatest part of the action, must have observed ; but it is a justice to the following corps to draw your notice to them in a particular manner ; viz. the royal artillery, commanded by lieutenant-colonel Robe ; the 20th dragoons, which had been commanded by lieutenant-colonel Taylor ; the 50th regiment, commanded by colonel Walker ; the second battalion 95th foot, commanded by major Travers ; the fifth battalion, 60th regiment, commanded by major Davy ; the second battalion 43d, commanded by major Hull ; the second battalion 52d, commanded by lieutenant-colonel Ross ; the 97th regiment, commanded by lieutenant-colonel Lyon ; the 36th regiment, commanded by colonel Burne ; the 40th, commanded by colonel Kemmis ; the 71st, commanded by lieutenant-colonel Pack ; and the 82d regiment, commanded by major Eyre.



In mentioning colonel Burne, and the 36th regiment to you upon this occasion, I cannot avoid to add that the regular and orderly conduct of this corps throughout this service, and their gallantry and discipline in action, have been conspicuous.

I must take this opportunity of acknowledging my obligations to the general and staff officers of the army. I was much indebted to major-general Spencer's judgment and experience in the decision which I formed with respect to the number of troops allotted to each point of defence; and for his advice and assistance throughout the action. In the position taken up by major-general Ferguson's brigade, and in its advance upon the enemy, that officer showed equal bravery and judgment; and much praise is due to brigadier-general Fane and brigadier-general Anstruther, for their gallant defence of their position in front of Vimiera, and to brigadier-general Nightingale, for the manner in which he supported the attack upon the enemy, made by major-general Ferguson.

Lieutenant-colonel G. Tucker and lieutenant-colonel Bathurst, and the officers in the departments of the adjutant and quartermaster-general, and lieutenant-colonel Torrens and the officers of my personal staff, rendered me the greatest assistance throughout the action.



I have the honour to enclose herewith, a return of the killed, wounded and missing.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(signed)           ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

N. B. Since writing the above, I have been informed that a French general officer, supposed to be general Thebault, the chief of the staff, has been found dead upon the field of battle.

A. W.

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*Abstract of Killed, Wounded and Missing.*

Four officers, killed ; 37 officers, wounded ; 2 officers, missing : 3 non-commissioned officers and drummers, killed ; 31 non-commissioned officers and drummers, wounded ; 3 non-commissioned officers and drummers, missing : 128 rank and file, killed ; 466 rank and file, wounded ; 46 rank and file, missing : 43 horses, killed, wounded and missing.

Total officers, non-commissioned officers and drummers, rank and file, and horses, killed, wounded and missing, 783.

G. B. Tucker,  
Dep. Adj. Gen.

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*Return of Ordnance and Ammunition taken in the  
Action of the 21st instant.*

One six-pounder, 4 four-pounders, 2 three-pounders, 6 five-and-half inch howitzers.

Two ammunition waggons.

Twenty-one Portuguese ammunition cars.

Forty horses.

Four mules.

The above is only the number already received in the park ; but from several accounts, there are eight more taken from the enemy. The ammunition waggons and cars contain a portion of powder, shells, and stores of all descriptions, and about twenty thousand rounds of musket ammunition.

*Wm. Robe, Lt. col.*

Commanding R. Artillery.

Lieut.-col. Tucker, &c. &c.

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## Corunna.

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London Gazette Extraordinary, 24 January 1809.

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*Letters from Lieutenant-general Sir D. Baird  
and Lieutenant-general Hope.*

His Majesty's Ship Ville de Paris,

My Lord, at Sea, January 18, 1809.

BY the much lamented death of lieutenant-general Sir John Moore, who fell in action with the enemy on the 16th instant, it has become my duty

to acquaint your lordship that the French army attacked the British troops, in the position they occupied in front of Corunna, at about two o'clock in the afternoon of that day.

A severe wound, which compelled me to quit the field a short time previous to the fall of Sir John Moore, obliges me to refer your lordship for the particulars of the action, which was long and obstinately contested, to the inclosed report of lieutenant-general Hope, who succeeded to the command of the army, and to whose ability and exertions, in direction of the ardent zeal and unconquerable valour of His Majesty's troops, is to be attributed, under Providence, the success of the day, which terminated in the complete and entire repulse and defeat of the enemy at every point of attack.

The honourable captain Gordon, my aide-de-camp, will have the honour of delivering this dispatch, and will be able to give your lordship any further information which may be required.

I have the honour to be, &c.

D. BAIRD, Lieut.-gen.

Right hon. Lord Viscount Castlereagh.

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Sir, His Majesty's Ship Audacious, off Corunna,  
January 18, 1809.

IN compliance with the desire contained in your communication of yesterday, I avail myself of the

first moment I have been able to command, to detail to you the occurrences of the action which took place in front of Corunna on the 16th instant.

It will be in your recollection, that about one in the afternoon of that day, the enemy, who had in the morning received reinforcements, and who had placed some guns in front of the right and left of his line, was observed to be moving troops towards his left flank, and forming various columns of attack at that extremity of the strong and commanding position, which on the morning of the 15th he had taken in our immediate front.

This indication of his intention was immediately succeeded by the rapid and determined attack which he made upon your division, which occupied the right of our position. The events which occurred during that period of the action you are fully acquainted with. The first effort of the enemy was met by the commander of the forces, and by yourself, at the head of the 42d regiment, and the brigade under major-general Lord William Bentinck.

The village on your right became an object of obstinate contest.

I lament to say, that soon after the severe wound which deprived the army of your services, lieutenant-general Sir John Moore, who had just directed the most able disposition, fell by a cannon-shot. The troops, though not unacquainted with the



irreparable loss they had sustained, were not dismayed, but by the most determined bravery not only repelled every attempt of the enemy to gain ground, but actually forced him to retire, although he had brought up fresh troops in support of those originally engaged.

The enemy finding himself foiled in every attempt to force the right of the position, endeavoured by numbers to turn it. A judicious and well-timed movement, which was made by major-general Paget, with the reserve, which corps had moved out of its cantonments to support the right of the army, by a vigorous attack, defeated this intention. The major-general, having pushed forward the 95th (rifle corps) and 1st battalion 52d regiment, drove the enemy before him, and in his rapid and judicious advance threatened the left of the enemy's position. This circumstance, with the position of lieutenant-general Fraser's division (calculated to give still further security to the right of the line), induced the enemy to relax his efforts in that quarter.

They were however more forcibly directed towards the centre, where they were again successfully resisted by the brigade under major-general Manningham, forming the left of your division, and a part of that under major-general Leith, forming the right of the division under my orders. Upon the left, the enemy at first contented himself with



an attack upon our piquets, which however in general maintained their ground. Finding, however, his efforts unavailing on the right and centre, he seemed determined to render the attack upon the left more serious, and had succeeded in obtaining possession of the village through which the great road to Madrid passes, and which was situated in front of that part of the line. From this post, however, he was soon expelled, with considerable loss, by a gallant attack of some companies of the 2d battalion 14th regiment, under lieutenant-colonel Nicholls ; before five in the evening, we had not only successfully repelled every attack made upon the position, but had gained ground in almost all points, and occupied a more forward line, than at the commencement of the action, whilst the enemy confined his operations to a cannonade, and the fire of his light troops, with a view to draw off his other corps. At six the firing entirely ceased. The different brigades were re-assembled on the ground they occupied in the morning, and the piquets and advanced posts resumed their original stations.

Notwithstanding the decided and marked superiority which at this moment the gallantry of the troops had given them over an enemy, who, from his numbers and the commanding advantages of his position, no doubt expected an easy victory ; I did not, on reviewing all circumstances, conceive

that I should be warranted in departing from what I knew was the fixed and previous determination of the late commander of the forces, to withdraw the army on the evening of the 16th, for the purpose of embarkation, the previous arrangements for which had already been made by his order, and were in fact far advanced at the commencement of the action. The troops quitted their position about ten at night, with a degree of order that did them credit. The whole of the artillery that remained unembarked, having been withdrawn, the troops followed in the order prescribed, and marched to their respective points of embarkation in the town and neighbourhood of Corunna. The piquets remained at their posts until five on the morning of the 17th, when they were also withdrawn with similar orders, and without the enemy having discovered the movement.

By the unremitted exertions of captains the honourable H. Curzon, Gosselin, Boys, Rainier, Serret, Hawkins, Digby, Carden, and Mackenzie, of the royal navy, who in pursuance of the orders of rear-admiral De Courcy, were entrusted with the service of embarking the army ; and in consequence of the arrangements made by commissioner Bowen, captains Bowen and Shepherd, and the other agents for transports, the whole of the army was embarked with an expedition which has seldom been equalled. With the exception of the

brigades under major-generals Hill and Beresford, which were destined to remain on shore, until the movements of the enemy should become manifest, the whole was afloat before daylight.

The brigade of major-general Beresford, which was alternately to form our rear-guard, occupied the land front of the town of Corunna ; that under major-general Hill was stationed in reserve on the promontory in rear of the town.

The enemy pushed his light troops towards the town soon after eight o'clock in the morning of the 17th, and shortly after occupied the heights of St. Lucia, which command the harbour. But notwithstanding this circumstance, and the manifold defects of the place, there being no apprehension that the rear-guard could be forced, and the disposition of the Spaniards appearing to be good, the embarkation of major-general Hill's brigade was commenced and completed by three in the afternoon ; major-general Beresford, with that zeal and ability which is so well known to yourself and the whole army, having fully explained to the satisfaction of the Spanish governor the nature of our movement, and having made every previous arrangement, withdrew his corps from the land front of the town soon after dark, and was, with all the wounded that had not been previously moved, embarked before one this morning.

Circumstances forbid us to indulge the hope, that the victory with which it has pleased Providence to crown the efforts of the army, can be attended with any very brilliant consequences to Great Britain. It is clouded by the loss of one of her best soldiers. It has been achieved at the termination of a long and harassing service. The superior numbers and advantageous positions of the enemy, not less than the actual situation of this army, did not admit of any advantage being reaped from success. It must be, however, to you, to the army, and to our country, the sweetest reflection, that the lustre of the British arms has been maintained amidst many disadvantageous circumstances. The army, which had entered Spain amidst the fairest prospects, had no sooner completed its junction, than owing to the multiplied disasters that dispersed the native armies around us, it was left to its own resources. The advance of the British corps from the Douro, afforded the best hope that the south of Spain might be relieved ; but this generous effort to save the unfortunate people, also afforded the enemy the opportunity of directing every effort of his numerous troops, and concentrating all his principal resources, for the destruction of the only regular force in the north of Spain.

You are well aware with what diligence this system has been pursued.



These circumstances produced the necessity of rapid and harassing marches, which had diminished the numbers, exhausted the strength, and impaired the equipment of the army. Notwithstanding all these disadvantages, and those more immediately attached to a defensive position, which the imperious necessity of covering the harbour of Corunna for a time had rendered indispensable to assume, the native and undaunted valour of British troops was never more conspicuous, and must have exceeded what even your own experience of that invaluable quality, so inherent in them, may have taught you to expect. When every one that had an opportunity seemed to vie in improving it, it is difficult for me, in making this report, to select particular instances for your approbation. The corps chiefly engaged were the brigades under major-generals Lord William Bentinck, and Manningham and Leith; and the brigade of guards under major-general Warde.

To these officers, and the troops under their immediate orders, the greatest praise is due. Major-general Hill and colonel Catlin Crauford, with their brigades on the left of the position, ably supported their advanced posts. The brunt of the action fell upon the 4th, 42d, 50th, and 81st regiments, with parts of the brigade of guards, and the 26th regiment. From lieutenant-colonel Murray, quartermaster-general, and the officers



of the general staff, I received the most marked assistance. I had reason to regret that the illness of brigadier-general Clinton, adjutant-general, deprived me of his aid. I was indebted to brigadier-general Slade during the action, for a zealous offer of his personal services, although the cavalry were embarked.

The greater part of the fleet having gone to sea yesterday evening, the whole being under weigh, and the corps in the embarkation necessarily much mixed on board, it is impossible at present to lay before you a return of our casualties. I hope the loss in numbers is not so considerable as might have been expected. If I was obliged to form an estimate I should say, that I believe it did not exceed in killed and wounded from seven to eight hundred ; that of the enemy must remain unknown, but many circumstances induce me to rate it at nearly double the above number. We have some prisoners, but I have not been able to obtain an account of the number ; it is not, however, considerable. Several officers of rank have fallen or been wounded, among whom I am only at present enabled to state the names of lieutenant-colonel Napier, 92d regiment, Majors Napier and Stanhope, 50th regiment, killed ; lieutenant-colonel Winch, 4th regiment, lieutenant-colonel Maxwell, 26th regiment, lieutenant-colonel Fane, 59th regiment, lieutenant-colonel Griffith, guards,

majors Miller and Williams, 81st regiment, wounded.

To you, who are well acquainted with the excellent qualities of lieutenant-general Sir John Moore, I need not expatiate on the loss the army and his country have sustained by his death. His fall has deprived me of a valuable friend, to whom long experience of his worth had sincerely attached me. But it is chiefly on public grounds that I must lament the blow. It will be the consolation of every one who loved or respected his manly character, that, after conducting the army through an arduous retreat with consummate firmness, he has terminated a career of distinguished honour by a death that has given the enemy additional reason to respect the name of a British soldier. Like the immortal Wolfe, he is snatched from his country at an early period of a life spent in her service; like Wolfe, his last moments were gilded by the prospect of success, and cheered by the acclamation of victory; like Wolfe, also, his memory will for ever remain sacred in that country which he sincerely loved, and which he had so faithfully served.

It remains for me only to express my hope, that you will speedily be restored to the service of your country, and to lament the unfortunate circumstance that removed you from your station in the

field, and threw the momentary command into far less able hands.

I have the honour to be, &c.

JOHN HOPE, Lieut.-gen.

To Lieutenant-general Sir David Baird,

&c. &c. &c.

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*Letter from Rear-admiral De Courcy.*

H. M. S. Tonnant,

Sir,

Corunna, January 17, 1809.

HAVING it in design to detach the Cossack to England as soon as her boats shall cease to be essential to the embarkation of troops, I seize a moment to acquaint you, for the information of the lords commissioners of the Admiralty, that the ships of war, as per margin\*, and transports, under the orders of rear-admiral Sir Samuel Hood and commissioner Bowen, arrived at this anchorage from Vigo, on the 14th and 15th instant; the Alfred and Hindostan, with some transports, were left at Vigo to receive a brigade of three thousand five hundred men, that had taken that route under the generals Alten and Crawford.

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\* Ville de Paris, Victory, Barfleur, Zealous, Implacable, Elizabeth, Norge, Plantagenet, Resolution, Audacious, Endymion, Mediator.

In the vicinity of Corunna the enemy have pressed upon the British in great force. The embarkation of the sick, the cavalry, and the stores went on. The night of the 16th was appointed for the general embarkation of the infantry ; and, mean time, the enemy prepared for attack. At three P. M. an action commenced ; the enemy, which had been posted on a lofty hill, endeavouring to force the British on another hill of inferior height, and nearer the town.

The enemy were driven back with great slaughter : but very sorry am I to add, that the British, though triumphant, have suffered severe losses. I am unable to communicate further particulars, than that Sir John Moore received a mortal wound, of which he died at night ; that Sir David Baird lost an arm ; that several officers and many men have been killed and wounded ; and that the ships of war have received all such of the latter as they could accommodate, the remainder being sent to transports.

The weather is now tempestuous, and the difficulties of embarkation are great. All except the rear-guard are embarked ; consisting perhaps at the present moment of two thousand six hundred men. The enemy having brought cannon to a hill overhanging the beach, have forced a majority of the transports to cut or slip. Embarkation being no longer practicable at the town, the boats



have been ordered to a sandy beach near the light-house ; and it is hoped that the greater part, if not all, will still be embarked, the ships of war having dropped out to facilitate embarkation.

January 18.

The embarkation of the troops having occupied greater part of last night, it has not been in my power to detach the Cossack before this day, and it is with satisfaction I am able to add, that, in consequence of the good order maintained by the troops, and the unwearied exertions of commissioner Bowen, the captains and other officers of the navy, the agents, as well as the boats crews, many of whom were for two days without food and without repose, the army have been embarked to the last man, and the ships are now in the offing, preparatory to steering for England. The great body of the transports having lost their anchors, ran to sea without the troops they were ordered to receive, in consequence of which there are some thousands on board the ships of war. Several transports, through mismanagement, ran on shore. The seamen appeared to have abandoned them, two being brought out by the boats crews of the men of war, two were burnt, and five were bilged.

I cannot conclude this hasty statement without expressing my great obligation to rear-admiral Sir



Samuel Hood, whose eye was every where, and whose exertions were unremitted.

I have the honour to be, &c.

M. DE COURCY.

Hazy weather rendering the Cossack obscure, I detach the Gleaner with this dispatch.

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### Talavera.

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London Gazette Extraordinary, August 15, 1809.

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*Letter from Lieutenant-general the Right honourable Sir Arthur Wellesley, K. B.*

Talavera de la Reyna,

July 29, 1809.

My Lord,

GENERAL CUESTA followed the enemy's march with his army from the Alberché on the morning of the 24th, as far as Santa Olalla, and pushed forward his advanced guard as far as Torrijos.

For the reasons stated to your lordship in my dispatch of the 24th, I moved only two divisions of infantry and a brigade of cavalry across the Alberché to Casalegos, under the command of lieutenant-general Sherbrooke, with a view to keep up the communication between general Cuesta and me, and with Sir R. Wilson's corps at Escalona.

It appears that general Vanegas had not carried into execution that part of the plan of operations which related to his corps, and that he was still at Damiel, in La Mancha; and the enemy in the course of the 24th, 25th, and 26th, collected all his forces in this part of Spain, between Torrijos and Toledo, leaving but a small corps of two thousand men in that place.

His united army thus consisted of the corps of marshal Victor, of that of general Sebastiani, and of seven or eight thousand men the guards of Joseph Buonaparte, and the garrison of Madrid, and it was commanded by Joseph Buonaparte, aided by marshals Jourdan and Victor, and general Sebastiani.

On the 26th general Cuesta's advanced guard was attacked near Torrijos, and obliged to fall back, and the general retired with his army on that day to the left bank of the Alberché, general Sherbrooke continuing at Casalegos, and the enemy at Santa Olalla.

It was then obvious that the enemy intended to try the result of a general action, for which the best position appeared to be in the neighbourhood of Talavera, and general Cuesta having consented to take up this position on the morning of the 27th, I ordered general Sherbrooke to retire with his corps to its station in the line, leaving general Mackenzie with a division of infantry and a brigade

of cavalry as an advanced post in the wood on the right of Alberché, which covered our left flank.

The position taken up by the troops at Talavera extended rather more than two miles ; the ground was open upon the left, where the British army was stationed, and it was commanded by a height on which was, in echelon and in second line, a division of infantry under the orders of major-general Hill.

There was a valley between this height and a range of mountains still further upon the left, which valley was not at first occupied, as it was commanded by the height before mentioned ; and the range of mountains appeared too distant to have any influence upon the expected action.

The right, consisting of Spanish troops, extended immediately in front of the town of Talavera down to the Tagus. This part of the ground was covered by olive trees, and much intersected by banks and ditches. The high road leading from the bridge over the Alberché, was defended by a heavy battery in front of a church, which was occupied by Spanish infantry. All the avenues to the town were defended in a similar manner ; the town was occupied, and the remainder of the Spanish infantry was formed in two lines behind the banks on the roads which led from the town and the right, to the left of our position.

In the centre, between the two armies, there was a commanding spot of ground, on which we had commenced to construct a redoubt, with some open ground in its rear.

Brigadier-general Alexander Campbell was posted at this spot with a division of infantry, supported in his rear by general Cotton's brigade of dragoons, and some Spanish cavalry.

At about two o'clock on the 27th, the enemy appeared in strength on the left bank of the Alberché, and manifested an intention to attack general Mackenzie's division.

The attack was made before they could be withdrawn ; but the troops, consisting of general Mackenzie's and colonel Donkin's brigades, and general Anson's brigade of cavalry, and supported by general Payne with the other four regiments of cavalry, in the plain between Talavera and the wood, withdrew in good order, but with some loss, particularly by the 2d battalion 87th regiment, and 2d battalion 31st regiment, in the wood.

Upon this occasion the steadiness and discipline of the 45th regiment, and of the 5th battalion 60th regiment, were conspicuous ; and I had particular reason for being satisfied with the manner in which major-general Mackenzie withdrew his advanced guard.

As the day advanced, the enemy appeared in larger numbers on the right of the Alberché, and



it was obvious that he was advancing to a general attack upon the combined army.

General Mackenzie continued to fall back gradually upon the left of the position of the combined armies, where he was placed in the second line, in the rear of the guards, colonel Donkin being placed in the same situation further upon the left, in the rear of the King's German Legion.

The enemy immediately commenced his attack in the dusk of the evening, by a cannonade upon the left of our position, and by an attempt with his cavalry to overthrow the Spanish infantry posted, as I have before stated, on the right. This attempt failed entirely.

Early in the night he pushed a division along the valley on the left of the height occupied by general Hill, of which he gained a momentary possession, but major-general Hill attacked it instantly with the bayonet, and regained it.

This attack was repeated in the night, but failed, and again at daylight in the morning of the 28th, by two divisions of infantry, and was repulsed by major-general Hill.

Major-general Hill has reported to me in a particular manner the conduct of the 29th regiment, and of the 1st battalion 4<sup>th</sup> regiment, in these different affairs, as well as that of major-general Tilson and brigadier-general Richard Stewart.



We have lost many brave officers and soldiers in the defence of this important point in our position; among others I cannot avoid to mention brigade-major Fordyce, and brigade-major Gardner; and major-general Hill was himself wounded, but I am happy to say but slightly.

The defeat of this attempt was followed about noon by a general attack with the enemy's whole force upon the whole of that part of the position occupied by the British army.

In consequence of the repeated attempts upon the height on our left by the valley, I had placed two brigades of British cavalry in that valley, supported in the rear by the Duc d'Albuquerque's division of Spanish cavalry.

The enemy then placed light infantry in the range of mountains on the left of the valley, which were opposed by a division of Spanish infantry under lieutenant-general De Bassecourt.

The general attack began by the march of several columns of infantry into the valley with a view to attack the height occupied by major-general Hill. These columns were immediately charged by the 1st German light dragoons, and 23d dragoons, under the command of general Anson, directed by lieutenant-general Payne, and supported by general Fane's brigade of heavy cavalry; and although the 23d dragoons suffered considerable

loss, the charge had the effect of preventing the execution of that part of the enemy's plan.

At the same time he directed an attack upon brigadier-general Alexander Campbell's position in the centre of the combined armies, and on the right of the British.

This attack was most successfully repulsed by brigadier-general Campbell, supported by the King's regiment of Spanish cavalry, and two battalions of Spanish infantry; and brigadier-general Campbell took the enemy's cannon.

The brigadier-general mentions particularly the conduct of the 97th, the 2d battalion 7th, and of the 2d battalion 53d regiments, and I was highly satisfied with the manner in which this part of the position was defended.

An attack was also made at the same time upon lieutenant-general Sherbrooke's division, which was on the left and centre of the first line of the British army.

This attack was most gallantly repulsed by a charge with bayonets, by the whole division, but the brigade of guards, which were on the right, having advanced too far, they were exposed on their left flank to the fire of the enemy's battery, and of their retiring columns; and the division was obliged to retire towards the original position, under cover of the 2d line of general Cotton's brigade of cavalry, which I had moved from the centre, and of the 1st battalion 48th regiment.

I had moved this regiment from its original position on the heights, as soon as I observed the advance of the guards, and it was formed in the plain, and advanced upon the enemy, and covered the formation of lieutenant-general Sherbrooke's division.

Shortly after the repulse of this general attack, in which apparently all the enemy's troops were employed, he commenced his retreat across the Alberché, which was conducted in the most regular order, and was effected during the night, leaving in our hands twenty pieces of cannon, ammunition, tumbrils, and some prisoners.

Your lordship will observe by the inclosed return, the great loss which we have sustained of valuable officers and soldiers, in this long and hard-fought action, with more than double our numbers. That of the enemy has been much greater. I am informed that entire brigades of infantry have been destroyed, and indeed the battalions that retreated were much reduced in numbers. By all accounts their loss is ten thousand men. Generals Lapisse and Morlot are killed ; generals Sebastiani and Boulet wounded.

I have particularly to lament the loss of major-general Mackenzie, who had distinguished himself on the 27th ; and of brigadier-general Langwerth, of the King's German Legion ; and of brigade-major Beckett, of the guards.

Your lordship will observe, that the attacks of

the enemy were principally, if not entirely, directed against the British troops. The Spanish commander in chief, his officers, and troops, manifested every disposition to render us assistance, and those of them which were engaged did their duty ; but the ground which they occupied was so important, and its front at the same time so difficult, that I did not think it proper to urge them to make any movement on the left of the enemy while he was engaged with us.

I have reason to be satisfied with the conduct of all the officers and troops. I am much indebted to lieutenant-general Sherbrooke for the assistance I received from him, and for the manner in which he led on his division to the charge with bayonets.

To lieutenant-general Payne and the cavalry, particularly general Anson's brigade, to major-generals Hill and Tilson, brigadier-generals Alexander Campbell, Richard Stewart, and Cameron, and to the divisions and brigades of infantry under their commands respectively, particularly the 29th regiment, commanded by colonel White, the 1st battalion 48th, commanded by colonel Donnellan, afterwards, when that officer was wounded, by major Middlemore ; the 2d battalion 7th, commanded by lieutenant-colonel Sir William Myers ; the 2d battalion 53d, commanded by lieutenant-colonel Bingham ; the 97th, commanded by colonel Lyon ; the 1st battalion of detachments, com-



manded by lieutenant-colonel Bunbury, and the 2d battalion 31st, commanded by major Watson, and of the 45th, commanded by lieutenant-colonel Guard, and 5th battalion 60th, commanded by major Davy, on the 27th.

The advance of the brigade of guards was most gallantly conducted by brigadier-general Campbell, and when necessary, that brigade retired, and formed again in the best order.

The artillery under brigadier-general Howorth was also, throughout these days, of the greatest service, and I had every reason to be satisfied with the assistance I received from the chief engineer lieutenant-colonel Fletcher, the adjutant-general brigadier-general the honourable C. Stewart, and the quartermaster-general colonel Murray, and the officers of those departments respectively, and from colonel Bathurst and the officers of my personal staff.

I also received much assistance from colonel O'Lawlor, of the Spanish service, and from brigadier-general Whittingham, who was wounded when bringing up the two Spanish battalions to the assistance of brigadier-general Alexander Campbell.

I send this by captain Lord Fitzroy Somerset, who will give your lordship any further information, and whom I beg leave to recommend.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(signed) ARTHUR WELLESLEY.



*Return of the numbers of Killed, Wounded and Missing, of the Army under the Command of Lieutenant-general Sir Arthur Wellesley, K. B. in Action with the French Army, commanded by Joseph Buonaparte, on the 27th and 28th July 1809.*

*27th July 1809.*

Killed—7 officers, 2 serjeants, 122 rank and file.

Wounded—24 officers, 17 serjeants, 1 drummer, 465 rank and file.

Missing—3 officers, 1 serjeant, 2 drummers, 202 rank and file.

*28th July 1809.*

Killed—27 officers, 26 serjeants, 4 drummers, 613 rank and file.

Wounded—171 officers, 148 serjeants, 15 drummers, 3,072 rank and file.

Missing—6 officers, 14 serjeants, 7 drummers, 418 rank and file.

*Total.*

Killed—5 general staff, 2 lieutenant-colonels, 1 major, 7 captains, 15 lieutenants, 3 cornets or ensigns, 1 adjutant, 28 serjeants, 4 drummers, 735 rank and file.

Wounded—9 general staff, 10 lieut.-colonels, 12 majors, 53 captains, 71 lieutenants, 34 cor-

nets or ensigns, 6 adjutants, 65 serjeants, 16 drummers, 3,537 rank and file.

Missing—5 captains, 3 lieutenants, 1 cornet or ensign, 15 serjeants, 9 drummers, 620 rank and file.

Total 5,367.

### Albuera.

London Gazette Extraordinary, 3d June 1811.

*Letters from Lieutenant-general Viscount Wellington and Sir William Beresford.*

Elvas, 22d May 1811.

ON the night of the 15th instant I received from marshal Sir William Beresford letters of the 12th and 13th instant, which reported marshal Soult had broken up from Seville about the 10th, and had advanced towards Estremadura, notwithstanding the reports which had been previously received that he was busily occupied in strengthening Seville and the approaches to that city by works ; and that all his measures indicated an intention to remain on the defensive in Andalusia.

I therefore set out on the following morning from Villa Fermosa ; and having received further information of the 14th, from Sir William Beres-

ford, of the enemy's movements, I hastened my progress, and arrived here on the 19th, and found that Sir William Beresford had raised the siege of Badajoz, without the loss of ordnance or stores of any description ; and collected the troops under his command, and had formed a junction with generals Castanos and Blake at Albuera, in the course of the 15th instant.

He was attacked there on the 16th by the French army under the command of marshal Soult ; and after a most severe engagement, in which all the troops conducted themselves in the most gallant manner, Sir William Beresford gained the victory. The enemy retired in the night of the 17th, leaving between 900 and 1,000 wounded on the ground.

Sir William Beresford sent the allied cavalry after them ; and on the 19th, in the morning, re-invested Badajoz.

I enclose reports of Sir William Beresford, of the 16th and 18th instant, on the operations of the siege to the moment of raising it, and on the battle at Albuera ; and I beg to draw your lordship's attention to the ability, the firmness, and the gallantry manifested by marshal Sir William Beresford throughout the transactions on which he has written. I will add nothing to what he has said of the conduct of all the officers and troops, excepting to express my admiration of it, and my

cordial concurrence in the favourable reports by Sir William Beresford of the good conduct of all.

All has remained quiet in Castile since I quitted that part of the country.

The battalions of the 9th corps, belonging to regiments serving in the corps d'armée in Andalusia, had marched from Salamanca on or about the 15th, and went towards Avila, and were to come by Madrid.

I send this dispatch by major (lieutenant-colonel) Arbuthnot, the secretary of marshal Sir William Beresford, who was present in the battle of Albuera, and can give your lordship any further information you can require ; and I beg leave to recommend him to your lordship.

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My Lord,

Albuera, 18th May 1811.

I HAVE infinite satisfaction in communicating to your lordship, that the allied army, united here under my orders, obtained on the 16th instant, after a most sanguinary contest, a complete victory over that of the enemy, commanded by marshal Soult ; and I shall proceed to relate to your lordship the circumstances.

In a former report I have informed your lordship of the advance of marshal Soult from Seville, and I had in consequence judged it wise entirely



to raise the siege of Badajoz, and prepare to meet him with our united forces, rather than by looking to two objects at once, to risk the loss of both. Marshal Soult, it appears, had been long straining every nerve to collect a force which he thought fully sufficient to his object for the relief of Badajoz, and for this purpose he had drawn considerable numbers from the corps of marshal Victor and general Sebastiani, and also I believe from the French army of the centre. Having thus completed his preparations, he marched from Seville on the 10th instant, with a corps then estimated at fifteen or sixteen thousand men, and was joined on descending into Estremadura by the corps under general Latour Maubourg, stated to be five thousand men. His excellency general Blake, as soon as he learnt the advance of marshal Soult, in strict conformity to the plan proposed by your lordship, proceeded to form his junction with the corps under my orders, and arrived at Valverde in person on the 14th instant, where having consulted with his excellency and general Castanos, it was determined to meet the enemy, and to give him battle.

On finding the determination of the enemy to relieve Badajoz, I had broken up from before that place, and marched the infantry to the position in front of Valverde, except the division of the honourable major-general G. L. Cole, which,



with two thousand Spanish troops, I left to cover the removal of our stores.

The cavalry, which had, according to orders, fallen back as the enemy advanced, was joined at Santa Martha by the cavalry of general Blake ; that of general Castanos under the count de Penne Villamur had been always with it.

As remaining at Valverde, though a stronger position, left Badajoz entirely open, I determined to take up a position (such as could be got, in this widely open country) at this place ; thus standing directly between the enemy and Badajoz.

The army was therefore assembled here on the 15th instant. The corps of general Blake, though making a forced march to effect it, only joined in the night, and could not be placed in its position till the morning of the 16th instant, when general Cole's division, with the Spanish brigade under Don Carlos d'Espagne, also joined, and a little before the commencement of the action.— Our cavalry had been forced on the morning of the 15th instant to retire from Santa Martha, and joined here. In the afternoon of that day the enemy appeared in front of us. The next morning our disposition for receiving the enemy was made, being formed in two lines, nearly parallel to the river Albuera, on the ridge of the gradual ascent rising from that river, and covering

the roads to Badajoz and Valverde ; though your lordship is aware, that the whole face of this country is every where passable for all arms. General Blake's corps was on the right, in two lines ; its left, on the Valverde road, joined the right of major-general the honourable William Stewart's division, the left of which reached the Badajoz road ; where commenced the right of major-general Hamilton's division, which closed the left of the line. General Cole's division, with one brigade of general Hamilton's, formed the second line of the British and Portuguese army.

The enemy, on the morning of the 16th, did not long delay his attack ; at eight o'clock he was observed to be in movement, and his cavalry was seen passing the rivulet of Albuera, considerably above our right, and shortly after he marched out of the wood opposite to us, a strong force of cavalry, and two heavy columns of infantry, pointing them to our front, as if to attack the village and bridge of Albuera. During this time, under the cover of his vastly superior cavalry, he was filing the principal body of his infantry over the river beyond our right, and it was not long before his intention appeared to be to turn us by that flank, and cut us off from Valverde. Major-general Cole's division was therefore ordered to form an oblique line to the rear of our right, with his own right thrown back. And the intention of

the enemy to attack our right becoming evident, I requested general Blake to form part of his first line, and all his second, to that front, which was done.

The enemy commenced his attack at nine o'clock, not ceasing at the same time to menace our left ; and after a strong and gallant resistance of the Spanish troops, he gained the heights upon which they had been formed : meanwhile the division of the honourable major-general William Stewart had been brought up to support them ; and that of major-general Hamilton brought to the left of the Spanish line, and formed in contiguous close columns of battalions, to be moveable in any direction. The Portuguese brigade of cavalry, under brigadier-general Otway, remained at some distance on the left of this, to check any attempt of the enemy below the village.

As the heights the enemy had gained raked and entirely commanded our whole position, it became necessary to make every effort to retake and maintain them ; and a noble one was made by the division of general Stewart, headed by that gallant officer. Nearly at the beginning of the enemy's attack, a heavy storm of rain came on, which, with the smoke from the firing, rendered it impossible to discern anything distinctly. This, with the nature of the ground, had been extremely

favourable to the enemy in forming his columns, and in his subsequent attack.

The right brigade of general Stewart's division, under lieutenant-colonel Colborne, first came into action, and behaved in the most gallant manner, and finding that the enemy's column could not be shaken by fire, proceeded to attack it with the bayonet ; and while in the act of charging, a body of Polish lancers (cavalry), which the thickness of the atmosphere and the nature of the ground had concealed, (and which was, besides, mistaken by those of the brigade when discovered for Spanish cavalry, and therefore not fired upon,) turned it ; and being thus attacked unexpectedly in the rear, was unfortunately broken and suffered immensely. The 31st regiment, being the left one of the brigade, alone escaped this charge, and under the command of major L'Estrange kept its ground, until the arrival of the 3d brigade, under major-general Hoghton. The conduct of this brigade was most conspicuously gallant, and that of the 2d brigade, under the command of the honourable lieutenant-colonel Abercrombie, was not less so : major-general Hoghton, cheering on his brigade to the charge, fell pierced by wounds. Though the enemy's principal attack was on this point of the right, he also made a continual attempt upon that part of our original front at the village and bridge, which were defended in the most



gallant manner by major-general Baron Alten and the light infantry brigade of the German Legion, whose conduct was, in every point of view, conspicuously good. This point now formed our left, and major-general Hamilton's division had been brought up there ; and he was left to direct the defence of that point, whilst the enemy's attack continued on our right, a considerable proportion of the Spanish troops supporting the defence of this place. The enemy's cavalry, on his infantry attempting to force our right, had endeavoured to turn it ; but by the able manœuvres of major-general the honourable William Lumley, commanding the allied cavalry, though vastly inferior to that of the enemy in number, his endeavours were foiled. Major-general Cole, seeing the attack of the enemy, very judiciously bringing up his left a little, marched in line to attack the enemy's left, and arrived most opportunely to contribute, with the charges of the brigades of general Stewart's division, to force the enemy to abandon his situation, and retire precipitately, and to take refuge under his reserve ; here the fuzileer brigade particularly distinguished itself. He was pursued by the allies to a considerable distance, and as far as I thought it prudent with his immense superiority of cavalry ; and I contented myself with seeing him driven across the Albuera.



I have every reason to speak favourably of the manner in which our artillery was served, and fought; and major Hartman commanding the British, and major Dickson commanding the Portuguese, and the officers and men, are entitled to my thanks. The four guns of the horse artillery, commanded by captain Lefebure, did great execution on the enemy's cavalry, and one brigade of Spanish artillery (the only one in the field) I saw equally gallantly and well served: we lost, in the misfortune which occurred to the brigade commanded by lieutenant-colonel Colborne (whom general Stewart reports to have acted and was then acting in a most noble manner, leading on the brigade in admirable order), one howitzer, which the enemy, before the arrival of the gallant general Hoghton's brigade, had time to carry off, with two hundred or three hundred prisoners, of that brigade. After he had been beaten from this, his principal attack, he still continued that near the village, on which he never could make any impression or cross the rivulet, though I had been obliged to bring a very great proportion of the troops from it, to support the principal point of attack; but the enemy seeing his main attack defeated, relaxed in his attempt there also. The Portuguese division of major-general Hamilton, in every instance evinced the utmost steadiness and courage, and manœuvred equally well with the British.

Brigadier-general Harvey's Portuguese brigade, belonging to general Cole's division, had an opportunity of distinguishing itself when marching in line across the plain, by repulsing with the utmost steadiness a charge of the enemy's cavalry.

It is impossible to enumerate every instance of discipline and valour shown on this severely contested day. But never were troops that more valiantly or more gloriously maintained the honour of their respective countries. I have not been able to particularize the Spanish divisions, brigades, or regiments, that were particularly engaged, because I am not acquainted with their denominations or names ; but I have great pleasure in saying that their behaviour was most gallant and honourable ; and though, from the superior number and weight of the enemy's force, that part of them that were in the position attacked were obliged to cede the ground, it was after a gallant resistance, and they continued in good order to support their allies ; and I doubt not, his excellency general Blake will do ample justice on this head, by making honourable mention of the deserving.

The battle commenced at nine o'clock, and continued without interruption till two in the afternoon, when the enemy having been driven over the Albuera, for the remainder of the day there was but cannonading and skirmishing.

It is impossible by any description to do justice to the distinguished gallantry of the troops, but every individual most nobly did his duty, and which will be well proved by the great loss we have suffered, though repulsing the enemy ; and it was observed that our dead, particularly the 57th regiment, were lying, as they had fought, in ranks, and every wound was in the front.

The honourable major-general William Stewart most particularly distinguished himself, and conducted much to the honour of the day ; he received two contusions but would not quit the field. Major-general the honourable G. L. Cole is also entitled to every praise ; and I have to regret being deprived for some time of his services, by the wound he has received. The honourable lieutenant-colonel Abercrombie, commanding the 2d brigade, 2d division, and major L'Estrange 31st regiment, deserve to be particularly mentioned ; and nothing could exceed the conduct and gallantry of colonel Inglis, at the head of his regiment. To the honourable major-general William Lumley, for the very able manner in which he opposed the numerous cavalry of the enemy, and foiled him in his object, I am particularly indebted. To major-general Hamilton, who commanded on the left during the severe attack upon our right, I am also much indebted ; and the Portuguese brigade of brigadier-generals

Fonseca and Archibald Campbell, deserve to be mentioned. To major-general Alten, and to the excellent brigade under his orders, I have much praise to give ; and it is with great pleasure I assure your lordship that the good and gallant conduct of every corps, and of every person, was in proportion to the opportunity that offered for distinguishing themselves. I know not an individual who did not do his duty.

I have, I fear, to regret the loss to the service of colonel Collins, commanding a Portuguese brigade, his leg having been carried off by a cannon shot. He is an officer of great merit ; and I deeply lament the death of major-general Hoghton, and of those two promising officers lieutenant-colonel Sir William Myers and lieutenant-colonel Duckworth.

It is most pleasing to me to inform your lordship, not only of the steady and gallant conduct of our allies, the Spanish troops, under his excellency general Blake, but also to assure you that the most perfect harmony has subsisted between us, and that general Blake not only conformed in all things to the general line proposed by your lordship, but in the details and in whatever I suggested to his excellency, I received the most immediate and cordial assent and co-operation, and nothing was omitted on his part to ensure the success of our united efforts ; and during the battle,



he most essentially, by his experience, knowledge and zéal, contributed to its fortunate result.

His excellency the captain-general Castanos, who had united the few troops he had in a state to be brought into the field, to those of general Blake, and placed them under his orders, assisted in person in the field ; and not only on this, but on all occasions, I am much indebted to general Castanos, who is ever beforehand in giving whatever can be beneficial to the success of the common cause.

Though I unfortunately cannot point out the corps or many of the individuals of the Spanish troops that distinguished themselves, yet I will not omit to mention the names of general Valles-teros, whose gallantry was most conspicuous, as of the corps he had under his command ; and the same of generals Zayas and of Don Carlos D'Espagne. The Spanish cavalry have behaved extremely well, and the Count de Penne Villamur is particularly deserving to be mentioned.

I annex the return of our loss in this hard contested day : it is very severe, and in addition to it is the loss of the troops under his excellency general Blake, who are killed, missing and wounded, but of which I have not the return. The loss of the enemy, though I cannot know what it is, must be still more severe ; he has left on the field of battle about two thousand dead, and we have taken



from nine hundred to one thousand prisoners. He has had five generals killed and wounded ; of the former, generals of division Werlé and Pefim ; and Gazan and two others amongst the latter. His force was much more considerable than we had been informed of, as I do not think he displayed less than from twenty to twenty-two thousand infantry, and he certainly had four thousand cavalry, with a numerous and a heavy artillery. His overbearing cavalry cramped and confined all our operations, and with his artillery saved his infantry, after its rout.

He retired after the battle to the ground he had been previously on, but occupying it in position ; and on this morning, or rather during the night, commenced his retreat on the road he came, towards Seville, and has abandoned Badajoz to its fate. He left a number of his wounded on the ground he had retired to, and which we are administering what assistance to we can. I have sent our cavalry to follow the enemy, but in that arm he is too powerful for us to attempt any thing against him in the plains he is traversing.

Thus we have reaped the advantage we proposed from our opposition to the attempts of the enemy ; and whilst he has been forced to abandon the object for which he has almost stripped Andalusia of troops, instead of having accomplished the haughty boasts with which marshal Soult

harangued his troops on leaving Seville, he returns there with a curtailed army, and what perhaps may be still more hurtful to him, with a diminished reputation.

In enumerating the services received from the officers of my own staff, I must particularly call your lordship's attention to those of brigadier-general d'Urban, quartermaster-general to the Portuguese army; and which I cannot sufficiently praise, though I can appreciate. On all occasions I have felt the benefits of his talents and services, and more particularly on this, where they very essentially contributed to the success of the day; and I cannot here omit the name of lieutenant-colonel Hardinge, deputy quartermaster-general to the Portuguese troops, whose talent and exertions deserve my thanks. To brigadier-general Mozinho, adjutant-general of the Portuguese army, and to lieutenant-colonel Rooke, assistant adjutant-general to the united British and Portuguese force, and to brigadier-general Lemos, and to the officers of my own personal staff, I am indebted for their assistance.

To the services of lieutenant-colonel Arbuthnot. (major in His Majesty's service) I am also much indebted, and he is the bearer of this to your lordship, and is fully enabled to give you any further information you may desire, and is most deserving of any favour your lordship may be pleased to

recommend him for, to his royal highness the Prince Regent.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(signed) W. C. BERESFORD,  
Marshal and Lieut.-gen.

P. S. Major-general Hamilton's division, and brigadier-general Madden's brigade of Portuguese cavalry, march to-morrow morning to re-invest Badajoz on the south side of the Guadiana.

W. C. B.

*Abstract of Killed, Wounded and Missing.*

Two general staff, 1 lieutenant-colonel, 1 major, 7 captains, 13 lieutenants, 9 ensigns, 1 staff, 33 serjeants, 4 drummers, 913 rank and file, 63 horses, killed ; 8 general staff, 5 lieutenant-colonels, 5 majors, 48 captains, 86 lieutenants, 22 ensigns, 7 staff, 146 serjeants, 10 drummers, 2,656 rank and file, 35 horses, wounded ; 1 major, 4 captains, 8 lieutenants, 1 ensign, 28 serjeants, 11 drummers, 517 rank and file, 17 horses, missing.

(signed) Charles Stewart,  
Major-general and Adjutant-general.

My Lord,

Elvas, May 22d, 1811.

I ENCLOSE a letter of the 21st instant, which I have received from marshal Sir William Beres-

ford, containing a letter from general Gazan to marshal Soult, which had been intercepted by some of our parties.

General Gazan, wounded himself, was marching with the wounded ; and from his account of those with him, from the account of those at Almendra-lejo, and those left on the ground at Albuera, from the numbers found dead on the field, and the prisoners, the marshal computes the enemy's loss not to fall short of 9,000 men.

I have the honour to be, &c.

WELLINGTON.

My Lord,

Camp near Albuera,  
21st May 1811.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your lordship the accompanying intercepted letters of some importance. After the severe battle we had, it is satisfactory to know that our calculations of the enemy's loss were not exaggerated ; and you will see by general Gazan's letter to marshal Soult, that in killed and wounded it cannot be less than eight thousand men : left dead on the field and taken, we have the knowledge of near three thousand ; general Gazan states that he has more than four thousand wounded with him ; three hundred and twenty were at Almendralejo ; by the same letters, Gazan says many have died on the road, and which we know must have been the case, as it



is in the few first days that the bad cases die in numbers, and a precipitate retreat and want of convenient carriage must increase the mortality : thus we can scarcely calculate the loss of the enemy from these data at less than nine thousand men.

Our advance was close to Azuchal and Almen-dralejo, and I propose putting a strong column of infantry in march towards those places to-morrow morning, and shall accompany it.

I have, &c.

(signed) W. C. BERESFORD.

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(Translation.)

Ribera, 19th May 1811.

Monsieur le Marechal,

I HAVE the honour to report to your excellency that I am just arrived with the whole of the column, which is infinitely more numerous than I could have believed. I am endeavouring to organize it, in order to avoid disasters, and particularly plundering, which would make us die of hunger, and which I found at the highest pitch this morning upon my arrival at Almendralejo.

I found upon my arrival here a letter from M. Le Normand to major D'Aubersac. I annex it herewith, after having acquainted myself with



its contents. As I imagine that it can be only the 9th corps which is at Almaraz, I write from hence to the Count d'Erlon, in order to induce him to hasten his march and to join you. However as it is also possible that they may be troops belonging to the army of the centre, commanded by general D'Armagnac, I write to him likewise, in order that he may move towards you.

I send an answer to captain Le Normand, to intimate to him that he should correspond with your excellency, major D'Aubersac having rejoined the army : I have ordered him to collect a large convoy of provisions, and to accompany it to you, that it may the more securely reach you.

The great heat will do a great deal of harm to our wounded, the number of whom amounts to more than four thousand ; especially as we have only five surgeons to dress them. Some have died upon the road ; amongst them M. la Pierre, chef de bataillon of the 103d regiment.

I am still without any news of the chef d'escadron La Barthe ; I shall have the honour of informing you the very moment I shall have been able to communicate with him. Spanish parties are at Los Santos and at Fuente del Maestro ; and have appeared this morning at Almendralejo and Villa Franca. They made inquiries at the latter place as to the march of our column ; and they

give out that four hundred horse and a strong column of infantry are to arrive to day at Los Santos ; I do not give any credit to this movement, but at all events we shall see them, and I shall try to escape them.

I beg your excellence to receive the assurance of the sincere and respectful devotion with which

I have the honour to be,

(signed) The General of Division, GAZAN.

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### **Salamanca.**

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London Gazette Extraordinary, 16 Aug. 1812.

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*Extracts from three Letters from the Earl of Wellington.*

Cabrerizos, near Salamanca,  
July 21, 1812.

IN the course of the 15th and 16th, the enemy moved all their troops to the right of their position on the Douro, and their army was concentrated between Toro and San Roman.

A considerable body passed the Douro at Toro on the evening of the 16th, and I moved the allied army to their left on that night, with an intention to concentrate on the Guarena.

It was totally out of my power to prevent the enemy from passing the Douro at any point at which he might think it expedient, as he had in his possession all the bridges over that river, and many of the fords; but he recrossed that river at Toro, in the night of the 16th, moved his whole army to Tordesillas, where he again crossed the Douro on the morning of the 17th, and assembled his army on that day at La Nava del Rey, having marched not less than ten leagues in the course of the 17th.

The 4th and light divisions of infantry, and major-general Anson's brigades of cavalry, had marched to Castrejon on the night of the 16th, with a view to the assembly of the army on the Guarena, and were at Castrejon, under the orders of lieutenant-general Sir Stapleton Cotton, on the 17th, not having been ordered to proceed further, in consequence of my knowledge that the enemy had not passed the Douro at Toro; and there was not time to call them in between the hour at which I received the intelligence of the whole of the enemy's army being at La Nava, and daylight of the morning of the 18th. I therefore took measures to provide for their retreat and junction, by moving the 5th division to Tordesillas de la Orden, and major-general Le Marchant's, major-general Alten's and major-general Rock's brigades of cavalry to Alaejos.

The enemy attacked the troops at Castrejon, at the dawn of day of the 18th, and Sir Stapleton Cotton maintained the post, without suffering any loss, till the cavalry had joined him. Nearly about the same time the enemy turned by Alaejos the left flank of our position at Castrejon.

The troops retired in admirable order to Tordesillas de la Orden, having the enemy's whole army on their flank or in their rear; and thence to the Guarena, which river they passed under the same circumstances, and effected their junction with the army.

The Guarena, which runs into the Douro, is formed by four streams, which unite about a league below Canizal, and the enemy took a strong position on the heights on the right of that river, and I placed the 5th, 4th and light divisions on the opposite heights, and had directed the remainder of the army to cross the Upper Guarena at Vallesa, in consequence of the appearance of the enemy's intention to turn our right.

Shortly after his arrival, however, the enemy crossed the Guarena at Carteillo, below the junction of the streams, and manifested an intention to press upon our left, and to enter the valley of Canizal. Major-general Alten's brigade of cavalry, supported by the 3d dragoons, were already engaged with the enemy's cavalry, and had taken, among other prisoners, the French



general Carriér; and I desired the honourable lieutenant-general Cole to attack, with major-general William Anson's and brigadier-general Harvey's brigades of infantry (the latter under the command of colonel Stubbs), the enemy's infantry which were supporting their cavalry. He immediately attacked and defeated them with the 27th and 40th regiments, which advanced to the charge with bayonets, colonel Stubbs' Portuguese brigade supporting, and the enemy gave way; many were killed and wounded; and major-general Alten's brigade of cavalry having pursued the fugitives, two hundred and forty prisoners were taken.

In these affairs lieutenant-general the hon. G. L. Cole, major-general V. Alten, major-general William Anson, lieutenant-general Arentschildt of the 1st hussars, and Hervey of the 14th light dragoons, lieutenant-colonel Maclean of the 27th, and major Archdall of the 40th, lieutenant-colonel Anderson, commanding the 11th, and major de Azeredo, commanding the 23d Portuguese regiment, distinguished themselves.

The enemy did not make any further attempt on our left; but having reinforced their troops on that side, and withdrawn those which had moved to their left, I brought back ours from Vallesa.

On the 19th, in the afternoon, the enemy withdrew all the troops from their right, and marched



to their left by Tarragona, apparently with an intention of turning our right. I crossed the Upper Guarena at Vallesa and El Olmo with the whole of the allied army in the course of that evening and night ; and every preparation was made for the action, which was expected on the plain of Vallesa on the morning of the 20th.

But shortly after daylight the enemy made another movement in several columns to his left, along the heights of the Guarena, which river he crossed below Santa la Piedra, and encamped last night at Babilafuente and Villamela ; and the allied army made a correspondent movement to its right by Cantalpino, and encamped last night at Cabeza Velloso, the 6th division and major-general Alten's brigade of cavalry being upon the Tormes at Aldea Lengua.

During these movements there have been occasional cannonades, but without loss on our side.

I have this morning moved the left of the army to the Tormes, where the whole are now concentrated ; and I observe that the enemy have also moved towards the same river, near Huerta.

The enemy's object hitherto has been to cut off my communication with Salamanca and Ciudad Rodrigo.

The enemy abandoned and destroyed the fort of Mirabete, on the Tagus, on the 11th instant ; and the garrison marched to Madrid, to form part

of the army of the centre. They were reduced to five days provisions.

I enclose a return of the killed and wounded on the 18th instant.

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Flores de Avila, July 24, 1812.

MY aide de-camp, captain Lord Clinton, will present to your lordship this account of a victory which the allied troops under my command gained in a general action fought near Salamanca on the evening of the 22d instant, which I have been under the necessity of delaying to send till now, having been engaged ever since the action in the pursuit of the enemy's flying troops.

In my letter of the 21st I informed your lordship that both armies were near the Tormes ; and the enemy crossed that river with the greatest part of his troops in the afternoon, by the fords between Alba de Tormes and Huerta, and moved by their left towards the roads leading to Ciudad Rodrigo.

The allied army, with the exception of the 3d division and general D'Urban's cavalry, likewise crossed the Tormes in the evening, by the bridge of Salamanca and the fords in the neighbourhood ; and I placed the troops in a position of which the right was upon one of the two heights called Dos

Arapiles, and the left on the Tormes below the ford of Santa Martha.

The 3d division and brigadier-general D'Urban's cavalry were left at Cabrerizos, on the right of the Tormes, as the enemy had still a large corps on the heights above Babilafuente, on the same side of the river; and I considered it not improbable, that, finding our army prepared for them in the morning, on the left of the Tormes, they would alter their plan, and manœuvre by the other bank.

In the course of the night of the 21st I received intelligence, of the truth of which I could not doubt, that general Chauvel had arrived at Pollos on the 20th, with the cavalry and horse artillery of the army of the north, to join marshal Marmont; and I was quite certain that these troops would join him on the 22d or 23d at the latest.

During the night of the 21st the enemy had taken possession of the village of Calvarasa de Ariba, and of the height near it called Nuestra Senora de la Pena, our cavalry being in possession of Calvarosa de Abaxo; and shortly after daylight detachments from both armies attempted to obtain possession of the more distant from our right of the two hills called Dos Arapiles.

The enemy however succeeded, their detachment being the strongest, and having been concealed in the woods nearer the hill than we were, by which success they strengthened materially

their own position, and had in their power increased means of annoying ours.

In the morning, the light troops of the 7th division, and the 4th Caçadores belonging to general Pack's brigade, were engaged with the enemy on the height called Nuestra Senora de la Pena, on which height they maintained themselves with the enemy throughout the day. The possession, by the enemy, however, of the more distant of the Arapiles, rendered it necessary for me to extend the right of the army in potency to the heights behind the village of Arapiles, and to occupy that village with light infantry ; and here I placed the 4th division, under the command of the honourable lieutenant-general Cole ; and although, from the variety of the enemy's movements, it was difficult to form a satisfactory judgment of his intentions, I considered that, upon the whole, his objects were upon the left of the Tormes. I therefore ordered the honourable major-general Pakenham, who commanded the 3d division, in the absence of lieutenant-general Picton on account of ill health, to move across the Tormes with the troops under his command, including brigadier-general D'Urban's cavalry, and to place himself behind Aldea Tejada, brigadier-general Bradford's brigade of Portuguese infantry and Don Carlos D'Espana's infantry having been moved up likewise to the neighbourhood of Las Torres, between the 3d and 4th divisions.



After a variety of evolutions and movements, the enemy appears to have determined upon his plan about two in the afternoon ; and under cover of a very heavy cannonade, which however did us but very little damage, he extended his left, and moved forward his troops, apparently with an intention to embrace, by the position of his troops and by his fire, our post on that of the two Arapiles which we possessed, and from thence to attack and break our line ; or, at all events, to render difficult any movement of ours to our right.

The extension of his line to his left, however, and its advance upon our right, notwithstanding that his troops still occupied very strong ground, and his position was well defended by cannon, gave me an opportunity of attacking him, for which I had long been anxious. I reinforced our right with the 5th division, under lieutenant-general Leith, which I placed behind the village of Arapiles, on the right of the 4th division, and with the 6th and 7th divisions in reserve ; and as soon as these troops had taken their stations, I ordered the honourable major-general Pakenham to move forward with the 3d division, and general D'Urban's cavalry, and two squadrons of the 14th light dragoons, under lieutenant-colonel Hervey, in four columns, to turn the enemy's left on the heights, while brigadier-general Bradford's brigade, the 5th division, under lieutenant-general Leith, the 4th division, under the honourable



lieutenant-general Cole, and the cavalry under lieutenant-general Sir Stapleton Cotton, should attack them in front, supported in reserve by the 6th division, under major-general Clinton, the 7th division, under major-general Hope, and Don Carlos D'España's Spanish division, and brigadier-general Pack should support the left of the 4th division, by attacking that of the Dos Arapiles, which the enemy held. The 1st and light divisions occupied the ground on the left, and were in reserve.

The attack upon the enemy's left was made in the manner above described, and completely succeeded. Major-general the honourable Edward Pakenham formed the third division across the enemy's flank, and overthrew every thing opposed to him. These troops were supported in the most gallant style by the Portuguese cavalry under brigadier-general D'Urban, and lieutenant-colonel Hervey's squadrons of the 14th, who successfully defeated every attempt made by the enemy on the flank of the third division.

Brigadier-general Bradford's brigade, the 5th and 4th divisions, and the cavalry under lieutenant-general Sir Stapleton Cotton, attacked the enemy in front, and drove his troops before them, from one height to another, bringing forward their right, so as to acquire strength upon the enemy's flank, in proportion to the advance. Brigadier-general Pack made a very gallant attack upon the Arapiles,

in which, however, he did not succeed, excepting in diverting the attention of the enemy's corps placed upon it, from the troops under the command of lieutenant-general Cole, in his advance.

The cavalry under lieutenant-general Sir Stapleton Cotton made a most gallant and successful charge against a body of the enemy's infantry, which they overthrew and cut to pieces. In this charge major-general Le Marchant was killed at the head of his brigade ; and I have to regret the loss of a most able officer.

After the crest of the height was carried, one division of the enemy's infantry made a stand against the 4th division, which, after a severe contest, was obliged to give way, in consequence of the enemy having thrown some troops on the left of the 4th division, after the failure of brigadier-general Pack's attack upon the Arapiles, and the honourable lieutenant-general Cole having been wounded.

Marshal Sir William Beresford, who happened to be on the spot, directed brigadier-general Spry's brigade of the 5th division, which was in the second line, to change its front, and to bring its fire on the flank of the enemy's division ; and, I am sorry to add, that while engaged in this service, he received a wound, which, I am apprehensive, will deprive me of the benefit of his counsel and assistance for some time. Nearly about the same

time lieutenant-general Leith received a wound, which unfortunately obliged him to quit the field. I ordered up the 6th division, under major-general Clinton, to relieve the 4th, and the battle was soon restored to its former success.

The enemy's right, however, reinforced by the troops which had fled from his left, and by those which had now retired from the Arapiles, still continued to resist ; and I ordered the 1st and light divisions, and colonel Stubbs's Portuguese brigade of the 4th division, which was re-formed, and major-general William Anson's brigade, likewise of the 4th division, to turn the right, while the 6th division, supported by the 3d and 5th, attacked the front. It was dark before this point was carried by the 6th division, and the enemy fled through the woods towards the Tormes. I pursued them with the 1st and light divisions, and major general William Anson's brigade of the 4th division, and some squadrons of cavalry under lieutenant-general Sir Stapleton Cotton, as long as we could find any of them together, directing our march upon Huerta and the fords of the Tormes, by which the enemy had passed on their advance ; but the darkness of the night was highly advantageous to the enemy, many of whom escaped under its cover, who must otherwise have been in our hands.

I am sorry to report, that owing to this same

cause, lieutenant-general Sir Stapleton Cotton was unfortunately wounded by one of our own sentries after he had halted.

We renewed the pursuit at break of day in the morning with the same troops, and major-general Bock's and major general Anson's brigades of cavalry, which joined during the night, and having crossed the Tormes, we came up with the enemy's rear-guard of cavalry and infantry, near La Serna ; they were immediately attacked by the two brigades of dragoons ; and the cavalry fled, leaving the infantry to their fate. I have never witnessed a more gallant charge than was made on the enemy's infantry by the heavy brigade of the King's German Legion, under major-general Bock, which was completely successful, and the whole body of infantry, consisting of three battalions of the enemy's first division, were made prisoners.

The pursuit was afterwards continued as far as Penaranda last night ; and our troops are still following the flying enemy. Their head-quarters were in this town, not less than ten leagues from the field of battle, for a few hours last night ; and they are now considerably advanced on the road towards Valladolid by Arevalo. They were joined yesterday on their retreat by the cavalry and artillery of the army of the north, which have arrived at too late a period, it is to be hoped, to be of much use to them.



It is impossible to form a conjecture of the amount of the enemy's loss in this action; but from all reports it is very considerable. We have taken from them eleven pieces of cannon\*, several ammunition waggons, two eagles, and six colours; and one general, three colonels, three lieutenant-colonels, 130 officers of inferior rank, and between six and seven thousand soldiers are prisoners†; and our detachments are sending in more every moment. The number of dead on the field is very large.

I am informed that marshal Marmont is badly wounded, and has lost one of his arms; and that four general officers have been killed, and several wounded.

Such an advantage could not have been acquired without material loss on our side; but it certainly has not been of a magnitude to distress the army, or to cripple its operations.

I have great pleasure in reporting to your lordship, that, throughout this trying day, of which

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\* The official returns only account for eleven pieces of cannon, but it is believed that twenty have fallen into our hands.

† The prisoners are supposed to amount to seven thousand; but it has not been possible to ascertain their numbers exactly, from the advance of the army immediately after the action was over.



I have related the events, I had every reason to be satisfied with the conduct of the general officers and troops.

The relation which I have written of its events will give a general idea of the share which each individual had in them ; and I cannot say too much in praise of the conduct of every individual in his station.

I am much indebted to marshal Sir William Beresford for his friendly counsel and assistance, both previous to and during the action ; to lieutenant-generals Sir Stapleton Cotton, Leith, and Cole, and major-generals Clinton and the honourable Edward Pakenham, for the manner in which they led the divisions of cavalry and infantry under their command respectively ; to major-general Hulse, commanding a brigade in the 6th division ; major-general G. Anson, commanding a brigade of cavalry ; colonel Hinde, colonel the honourable William Ponsonby, commanding major-general Le Marchant's brigade, after the fall of that officer ; to major-general William Anson, commanding a brigade in the 4th division ; major-general Pringle, commanding a brigade in the 5th division, and the division after lieutenant-general Leith was wounded ; brigadier-general Bradford ; brigadier-general Spry, colonel Stubbs, and brigadier-general Power, of the Portuguese service ; likewise to lieutenant-colonel Campbell,

of the 94th, commanding a brigade in the 3d division ; lieutenant-colonel Williams, of the 60th foot ; lieutenant-colonel Wallace, of the 88th, commanding a brigade in the 3d division ; lieutenant-colonel Ellis, of the 23d, commanding general the honourable Edward Pakenham's brigade in the 4th division, during his absence in the command of the 3d division ; the honourable lieutenant-colonel Greville, of the 38th regiment, commanding major-general Hay's brigade in the 5th division, during his absence on leave ; brigadier-general Pack ; brigadier-general the Conde de Rezendi, of the Portuguese service ; colonel Douglas, of the 8th Portuguese regiment ; lieutenant-colonel the Conde de Ficalho, of the same regiment ; and lieutenant-colonel Bingham, of the 53d regiment ; likewise to brigadier-general d'Urban, and lieutenant-colonel Hervey, of the 14th light dragoons ; colonel Lord Edward Somerset, commanding the 4th dragoons ; and lieutenant-colonel the honourable Frederick Ponsonby, commanding the 12th light dragoons.

I must also mention lieutenant-colonel Woodford, commanding the light battalion of the brigade of guards, who, supported by two companies of the fusileers, under the command of captain Crowder, maintained the village of Arapiles against all the efforts of the enemy, previous to the attack upon their position by our troops.

In a case in which the conduct of all has been conspicuously good, I regret that the necessary limits of a dispatch prevent me from drawing your lordship's notice to the conduct of a larger number of individuals; but I can assure your lordship, that there was no officer of corps engaged in this action who did not perform his duty by his sovereign and his country.

The royal and German artillery, under lieutenant-colonel Framingham, distinguished themselves by the accuracy of their fire, wherever it was possible to use them; and they advanced to the attack of the enemy's position with the same gallantry as the other troops.

I am particularly indebted to lieutenant-colonel De Lancy, the deputy quartermaster-general, the head of the department present in the absence of the quartermaster-general, and to the officers of that department, and of the staff corps, for the assistance I received from them, particularly the honourable lieutenant-colonel Dundas, and lieutenant-colonel Sturgeon of the latter, and major Scovell of the former; and to lieutenant-colonel Waters, at present at the head of the adjutant-general's department at head-quarters, and to the officers of that department, as well at head-quarters as with the several divisions of the army; and lieutenant-colonel Lord Fitzroy Somerset, and the officers of my personal staff. Among the

latter I particularly request your lordship to draw the attention of his royal highness the Prince Regent to his serene highness the hereditary Prince of Orange, whose conduct in the field, as well as upon every other occasion, entitles him to my highest commendation, and has acquired for him the respect and regard of the whole army.

I have had every reason to be satisfied with the conduct of the mariscal del campo Don Carlos d'Espagna, and of brigadier Don Julian Sanchez, and with that of the troops under their command respectively ; and with that of the mariscal del campo Don Miguel Alava, and of brigadier Don Joseph O'Lawlor, employed with this army by the Spanish government, from whom, and from the Spanish authorities and people in general, I received every assistance I could expect.

It is but justice likewise to draw your lordship's attention, upon this occasion, to the merits of the officers of the civil departments of the army. Notwithstanding the increased distance of our operations from our magazines, and that the country is completely exhausted, we have hitherto wanted nothing, owing to the diligence and attention of commissary-general, Mr. Bisset, and the officers of the department under his direction.

I have likewise to mention that by the attention and ability of doctor Mac Gregor, and of the



officers of the department under his charge, our wounded, as well as those of the enemy left in our hands, have been well taken care of; and I hope that many of these valuable men will be saved to the service.

Captain Lord Clinton will have the honour of laying at the feet of his royal highness the Prince Regent the eagles and colours taken from the enemy in this action.

I enclose a return of the killed and wounded.

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Olmedo, July 28, 1812.

THE army have continued their march in pursuit of the enemy since I addressed you on the 24th instant, and we have continued to take many prisoners. A part of the enemy's army crossed the Douro yesterday near Puente de Douro, and the remainder, their left wing, were in march towards the bridge of Tudela this morning at nine o'clock, when I last heard from our advanced posts.

The main body of the allied army is this day on the Adaja and Zapardiel, rivers in this neighbourhood; the light cavalry being in front, in pursuit of the enemy.

It appears that Joseph Buonaparte left Madrid on the 21st, with the army of the centre, supposed to consist of from ten to twelve thousand infantry



and from two to three thousand cavalry, and he directed his march by the Escoriel, upon Alba de Tormes. He arrived at Blasco Sancho, between Avila and Arevalo, on the 25th, where he heard of the defeat of marshal Marmont, and he retired in the evening, and between that time and the evening of the 26th, he marched through Villa Castin to Espinar. A non-commissioned officer's patrol of the 14th light dragoons and the 1st hussars, from Arevalo, took in Blasco Sancho on the evening of the 25th, shortly after Joseph Buonaparte had left the place, two officers and twenty-seven men of his own cavalry, who had been left there to follow his rear-guard.

I have reason to believe that Joseph Buonaparte had no regular account of the action of the 22d, till he passed the Puerte de Guadarrama yesterday, but he then returned, and was directing his march upon Segovia. I have not yet heard how far he had advanced. All accounts concur with regard to the great loss sustained by the army of Portugal.

By accounts from lieutenant-general Sir Rowland Hill to the 24th instant, it appears that the enemy had in some degree reinforced the troops in Estramadura. The lieutenant-general had removed to Zafra.

It is reported, that general Ballasteros had marched on another expedition towards Malaga,

and that he was opposed by a division of the army of the south, under general Labal.

I have not received detailed accounts of commodore Sir Home Popham's operations on the coast since the capture of Sequeitio, but I understand that he has taken Castro Urdiales.

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*Abstract of Killed, Wounded and Missing, of the Allied Army, on the 18th July 1812.*

	Killed.	Wounded.	Missing.
British - -	61 - -	297 - -	27
Portuguese -	34 - -	96 - -	27
Total -	<u>95</u>	<u>393</u>	<u>54</u>

*July 22d, 1812.*

	Killed.	Wounded.	Missing.
British - -	388 -	2,714 - -	74
Portuguese -	304 -	1,552 - -	182
Spanish - -	2 - -	4 - -	—
Total -	<u>694</u>	<u>4,270</u>	<u>256</u>

*July 23d, 1812.*

Killed, 51 ; Wounded, 60 ; Missing, 6.

*Return of Ordnance, &c. taken at the Castle of  
Salamanca, July 22, 1812.*

Six French eight-pounders, 1 French four-pounder, 3 Spanish four-pounders, 1 French six-inch howitzer.—Total, 11.

Five tumbrils with ammunition.

The exact quantity of ammunition carried on each tumbril not yet ascertained.

(signed) *Hoylet Framingham,*  
Lieut.-col. Royal Artillery.

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### Vittoria.

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London Gazette Extraordinary, 3 July 1813.

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*Letter from the Marquess of Wellington.*

My Lord,

Salvatierra, June 22, 1813, and

Irunzun, June 24, 1813.

THE enemy's army, commanded by Joseph Bonaparte, having marshal Jourdan as the major-general of the army, took up a position on the night of the 19th instant, in front of Vittoria, the left of which rested upon the heights which end at Puebla de Arlanzon, and extended from thence across the valley of Zadora, in front of the village of Aruñez. They occupied with the right of the

centre a height which commanded the valley of Zadora, and the right of their army was stationed near Vittoria, and was destined to defend the passages of the river Zadora, in the neighbourhood of that city. They had a reserve, in rear of their left, at the village of Gomecha.

The nature of the country through which the army had passed since it had reached the Ebro, had necessarily extended our columns, and we halted on the 20th in order to close them up, and moved the left to Margina, where it was most likely it would be necessary : I reconnoitered the enemy's position on that day, with a view to the attack to be made on the following morning, if they should still remain in it.

We accordingly attacked the enemy yesterday, and I am happy to inform your lordship that the allied army under my command gained a complete victory ; having driven them from all their positions, having taken from them one hundred and fifty-one pieces of cannon, four hundred and fifteen waggons of ammunition, all their baggage, provisions, cattle, treasure, &c. and a considerable number of prisoners.

The operations of the day commenced by lieutenant-general Sir Rowland Hill obtaining possession of the heights of La Puebla, on which the enemy's left rested, which heights they had not occupied in great strength.



He detached on this service one brigade of the Spanish division under general Morillo ; the other brigade being employed in keeping the communication between his main body, on the high road from Miranda to Vittoria, and the troops detached to the heights. The enemy, however, soon discovered the importance of the heights, and reinforced their troops there to such an extent, as that lieutenant-general Sir Rowland Hill was obliged to detach, first, the 71st regiment, and the light infantry battalion of Major-general Walker's brigade, under the command of the hon. lieutenant-colonel Cadogan, and successively other troops to the same point, and the allies not only gained, but maintained possession of these important heights throughout their operations, notwithstanding all the efforts of the enemy to retake them. The contest here, however, was very severe, and the loss sustained considerable. General Murillo was wounded, but remained in the field ; and I am concerned to have to report, that the hon. lieutenant-colonel Cadogan has died of a wound which he received. In him His Majesty has lost an officer of great zeal and tried gallantry, who had already acquired the respect and regard of the whole profession, and of whom it might be expected, that if he had lived he would have rendered the most important services to his country.



Under cover of the possession of these heights, Sir Rowland Hill successively passed the Zadora, at la Puebla, and the defile formed by the heights and the river Zadora, and attacked and gained possession of the village of Sabijana de Alava, in front of the enemy's line, which the enemy made repeated attempts to regain.

The difficult nature of the country prevented the communication between our different columns moving to the attack from their stations on the river Bayas at as early an hour as I had expected, and it was late before I knew that the column composed of the 3d and 7th divisions, under the command of the Earl of Dalhousie, had arrived at the station appointed for them.

The fourth and light divisions, however, passed the Zadora immediately after Sir Rowland Hill had possession of Sabijana de Alava, the former at the bridge of Nanclaus, and the latter at the bridge of Tres Puentes ; and almost as soon as these had crossed, the column under the Earl of Dalhousie arrived at Mendonza, and the third division, under lieutenant-general Sir Thomas Picton, crossed at the bridge higher up, followed by the 7th division, under the Earl of Dalhousie.

These four divisions, forming the centre of the army, were destined to attack the heights on which the right of the enemy's centre was placed, while lieutenant-general Sir Rowland Hill should

move forward from Sabijana de Alava to attack the left. The enemy, however, having weakened his line to strengthen his detachment in the hills, abandoned his position in the valley as soon as he saw our disposition to attack it, and commenced his retreat in good order towards Vittoria.

Our troops continued to advance in admirable order, notwithstanding the difficulty of the ground.

In the mean time, lieutenant-general Sir Thomas Graham, who commanded the left of the army, consisting of the 1st and 5th divisions, and general Pack's and Bradford's brigades of infantry, and general Bock's and Anson's brigades of cavalry, and who had been moved on the 20th to Margina, moved forward from thence on Vittoria, by the high road from that town to Bilboa. He had besides with him the Spanish division under colonel Longa and general Giron, who had been detached to the left under a different view of the state of affairs, and had afterwards been recalled, and had arrived on the 20th at Orduna, marched that morning from thence, so as to be in the field in readiness to support lieutenant-general Sir T. Graham, if his support had been required.

The enemy had a division of infantry and some cavalry advanced on the great road from Vittoria to Bilboa, resting their right on some strong heights covering the village of Gamarra Maior. Both Gamarra and Abechuco were strongly occu-

pied, as *têtes-de-pont* to the bridges over the Zadora at these places. Brigadier-general Pack, with his Portuguese brigade, and colonel Longa, with the Spanish division, were directed to turn and gain the heights, supported by major-general Anson's brigade of light dragoons, and the 5th division of infantry, under the command of major-general Oswald, who was desired to take the command of all these troops.

Lieutenant-general Sir T. Graham reports, that in the execution of this service, the Portuguese and Spanish troops behaved admirably. The 4th and 8th *caçadores* particularly distinguished themselves. Colonel Longa being on the left, took possession of Gamarra Menor.

As soon as the heights were in our possession, the village of Gamarra Maior was most gallantly stormed and carried by brigadier-general Robinson's brigade of the 5th division, which advanced in columns of battalions, under a very heavy fire of artillery and musquetry, without firing a shot, assisted by two guns of major Lawson's brigade of artillery. The enemy suffered severely and lost three pieces of cannon.

The lieutenant-general then proceeded to attack the village of Abechuco, with the 1st division, by forming a strong battery against it, consisting of captain Dubourdieu's brigade, and captain Ramsay's troop of horse-artillery, and,

under cover of this fire, colonel Halkett's brigade advanced to the attack of the village, which was carried, the light battalion having charged and taken three guns and a howitzer on the bridge: this attack was supported by general Bradford's brigade of Portuguese infantry.

During the operation at Abechuco, the enemy made the greatest efforts to repossess themselves of the village of Gamarro Maior, which were gallantly repulsed by the troops of the 5th division, under the command of major-general Oswald. The enemy had, however, on the heights on the left of the Zadora, two divisions of infantry in reserve, and it was impossible to cross by the bridges, till the troops which had moved upon the enemy's centre and left had driven them through Vittoria.

The whole then co-operated in the pursuit, which was continued by all till after it was dark.

The movement of the troops under lieutenant-general Sir Thomas Graham, and their possession of Gamarra and Abechuco, intercepted the enemy's retreat by the high road to France. They were then obliged to turn to the road towards Pamplona; but they were unable to hold any position for a sufficient length of time to allow their baggage and artillery to be drawn off. The whole, therefore, of the latter, which had not already been taken by the troops in their attack



of the successive positions taken up by the enemy in their retreat from their first position on Aruñey and on the Zadora, and all their ammunition and baggage, and every thing they had, were taken, close to Vittoria. I have reason to believe that the enemy carried off with them one gun and one howitzer only.

The army under Joseph Buonaparte consisted of the whole of the armies of the south and of the centre, and of four divisions, and all the cavalry, of the army of Portugal, and some troops of the army of the north. General Foix's division of the army of Portugal was in the neighbourhood of Bilboa, and general Clausel, who commands the army of the north, was near Logrono with one division of the army of Portugal, commanded by general Topin, and general Vandermasens's division of the army of the north.

The 6th division of the allied army, under major-general the honourable Edward Pakenham, was likewise absent, having been detained at Medina del Pomar for three days, to cover the march of our magazines and stores.

I cannot extol too highly the good conduct of all the general officers, officers, and soldiers of the army in this action. Lieutenant-general Sir Rowland Hill speaks highly of the conduct of general Murillo, and the Spanish troops under his command, and of that of lieutenant-general the



honourable W. Stewart, and the Conde d'Amarante, who commanded divisions of infantry under his directions. He likewise mentions the conduct of the honourable lieutenant-colonel O'Callagan, who maintained the village of Sabijana de Alava against all the efforts of the enemy to regain possession of it, and that of lieutenant-colonel Rooke, of the adjutant general's department, and lieutenant-colonel the honourable Alexander Abercromby, of the quartermaster-general's department.

It was impossible for the movements of any troops to be conducted with more spirit and regularity than those of the respective divisions of lieutenant-general the earl of Dalhousie, Sir Thomas Picton, Sir Lowry Cole, and major-general Charles Baron Alten. These troops advanced in echelons of regiments, in two, and occasionally three lines; and the Portuguese troops in the 3d and 4th divisions, under the command of brigadier-general Power and colonel Stubbs, led the march with a steadiness and gallantry never surpassed on any occasion.

Major-general the honourable C. Colville's brigade of the 3d division was seriously attacked in its advance, by a very superior force, well formed, which it drove in, supported by general Inglis's brigade of the 7th division, commanded by colonel Grant, of the 82d. These officers, and

the troops under their command, distinguished themselves.

Major-general Vandeleur's brigade of the light division was, during the advance upon Vittoria, detached to the support of the 7th division, and lieutenant-general the earl of Dalhousie has reported most favourably of its conduct.

Lieutenant-general Sir Thomas Graham particularly reports his sense of the assistance he received from colonel Delancy, deputy quartermaster-general, and from lieutenant-colonel Bouverie of the adjutant-general's department, and from the officers of his personal staff, and from the honourable lieutenant-colonel Upton, assistant quartermaster-general, and major Hope, assistant adjutant, with the 1st division : and major-general Oswald reports the same of lieutenant colonel Berkeley, of the adjutant-general's department, and lieutenant-colonel Gomm, of the quartermaster-general's department.

I am particularly indebted to lieutenant-general Sir Thomas Graham, and lieutenant-general Sir Rowland Hill, for the manner in which they have respectively conducted the service entrusted to them since the commencement of the operations, which have ended in the battle of the 21st, and for their conduct in that battle ; as likewise to marshal Sir William Beresford, for the friendly advice and assistance which I have received

from him upon all occasions during the late operations.

I must not omit to mention, likewise, the conduct of general Giron, who commands the Gallician army, who made a forced march from Orduña, and was actually on the ground in readiness to support lieutenant-general Sir Thomas Graham.

I have frequently been indebted, and have had occasion to call the attention of your lordship to the conduct of the quartermaster-general major-general George Murray, who, in the late operations, and in the battle of the 21st instant, has again given me the greatest assistance. I am likewise indebted much to Lord Aylmer, the deputy adjutant-general, and to the officers of the adjutant and quartermaster-general's departments respectively, and to lieutenant-colonel Lord Fitzroy Somerset, lieutenant-colonel Campbell, and the officers of my personal staff, and to lieutenant-colonel Sir Richard Fletcher, and the officers of the royal engineers.

Colonel his serene highness the hereditary Prince of Orange was in the field as my aide-de-camp, and conducted himself with his usual gallantry and intelligence.

Mareschal del campo Don Luis Wimpfen, and the inspector-general Don Thomas O'Donoju, and the officers of the staff of the Spanish army, have invariable rendered me every assistance in their

power in the course of these operations; and I avail myself of this opportunity of expressing my satisfaction at their conduct, as likewise with that of mareschal del campo Don Miguel de Alava, and of brigadier-general Don Joseph O'Lawlor, who have been so long and so usefully employed with me.

The artillery was most judiciously placed by lieutenant-colonel Dickson, and was well served, and the army is particularly indebted to that corps.

The nature of the ground did not allow of the cavalry being generally engaged, but the general officers, commanding the several brigades, kept the troops under their command respectively close to the infantry to support them, and they were most active in the pursuit of the enemy after they had been driven through Vittoria.

I send this dispatch by my aide-de-camp captain Fremantle, whom I beg leave to recommend to your lordship's protection: he will have the honour of laying at the feet of his royal highness the Prince Regent, the colours of the 4th battalion of the 100th regiment, and marshal Jourdan's bâton of a marshal of France, taken by the 87th regiment.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(signed) WELLINGTON.



I enclose a return of the killed and wounded in the late operations, and a return of the ordnance and ammunition captured in the action of the 21st instant.

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*Abstract of Loss from June 12th to 21st.*

BRITISH.

2 Serjeants, 9 rank and file, 9 horses. killed ;  
1 captain, 3 lieutenants, 2 serjeants, 62 rank and  
file, 13 horses, wounded.

PORTUGUESE.

3 rank and file killed ; 1 major, 1 captain, 3  
serjeants, 16 rank and file, wounded.

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*On the 21st.*

British loss:—1 lieutenant-colonel, 6 captains,  
10 lieutenants, 4 ensigns, 1 staff, 15 serjeants,  
4 drummers, 460 rank and file, 92 horses, killed ;  
1 general staff, 7 lieutenant-colonels, 5 majors,  
40 captains, 87 lieutenants, 22 ensigns, 5 staff,  
123 serjeants, 13 drummers, 2,504 rank and file,  
68 horses, wounded.

Portuguese loss :—3 captains, 1 lieutenant,  
3 ensigns, 4 serjeants, 1 drummer, 138 rank and  
file, 1 horse, killed ; 1 lieutenant-colonel, 4 ma-  
jors, 16 captains, 10 lieutenants, 19 ensigns, 2 staff,



35 serjeants, 1 drummer, 811 rank and file, wounded,

Spanish loss:—1 captain, 3 lieutenants, 85 rank and file, killed; 1 general staff, 1 lieutenant-colonel, 3 captains, 6 lieutenants, 453 rank and file, wounded.

Grand Total:—1 lieutenant-colonel, 10 captains, 14 lieutenants, 7 ensigns, 1 staff, 19 serjeants, 5 drummers, 683 rank and file, 93 horses, killed; 2 general staff, 9 lieutenant-colonels, 9 majors, 59 captains, 103 lieutenants, 41 ensigns, 7 staff, 158 serjeants, 14 drummers, 3,768 rank and file, 68 horses, wounded.

*N. B.*—1 serjeant, 2 drummers, 263 rank and file, have been returned missing by the several corps of the army, British and Portuguese; it is supposed that the greater number of them lost their regiments in the course of the night, and that very few have fallen into the hands of the enemy.

(signed) *Aylmer*,  
Dep. Adj.-gen.

## Pyrenees.

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London Gazette Extraordinary, 16 August 1813.

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*Letters from Field-marshal the Marquess of Wellington and Lieutenant-general Sir Rowland Hill.*

My Lord, San Esteven, Aug. 1, 1813.

TWO practicable breaches having been effected at San Sebastian on the 24th of July, orders were given that they should be attacked on the morning of the 25th. I am concerned to have to report, that this attempt to obtain possession of the place failed, and that our loss was very considerable.

Marshal Soult had been appointed lieutenant de l'Empereur, and commander-in-chief of the French armies in Spain and the southern provinces of France, by a décret impérial, on the 1st of July, and he joined and took the command of the army on the 13th of July, which having been joined nearly about the same time by the corps which had been in Spain under the command of general Clauzel, and by other reinforcements, was called the army of Spain, and re-formed into nine divisions of infantry, forming the right, centre, and left, under the command of general Reille, Comte d'Erlon, and general Clauzel, as lieutenant-generals, and a reserve

under general Villatte ; and two divisions of dragoons and one of light cavalry, the two former under the command of generals Treillard and Tilly, and the latter under the command of general Pierre Soult. There was besides allotted to the army a large proportion of artillery, and a considerable number of guns had already joined.

The allied army was posted, as I have already informed your lordship, in the passes of the mountains. Major-general Byng's brigade of British infantry, and general Morillo's division of Spanish infantry, were on the right in the pass of Roncesvalles. Lieutenant-general Sir Lowry Cole was posted at Viscarret, to support those troops ; and lieutenant-general Sir Thomas Picton, with the third division, at Olaque, in reserve.

Lieutenant-general Sir Rowland Hill occupied the valley of Bastan with the remainder of the second division, and the Portuguese division, under the Conde de Amarante, detaching general Campbell's Portuguese brigade to Los Alduides, within the French territory. The light and seventh divisions occupied the heights of Santa Barbara, and the town of Vera, and the Puerto de Echalar, and kept the communication with the valley of Bastan ; and the sixth division was in reserve at San Estevan. General Longa's division kept the communication between the troops at Vera and those under lieutenant-general Sir

Thomas Graham and mariscal del campo Giron, on the great road.

The Conde del Abisbal blockaded Pampeluna.

On the 24th marshal Soult collected the right and left wings of his army, with one division of his centre, and two divisions of cavalry, at St. Jean de Pied de Port, and on the 25th attacked, with between thirty and forty thousand men, general Byng's post at Roncesvalles. Lieutenant-general Sir Lowry Cole moved up to his support with the fourth division, and these officers were enabled to maintain their post throughout the day. But the enemy turned it in the afternoon ; and lieutenant-general Sir Lowry Cole considered it to be necessary to withdraw in the night, and he marched to the neighbourhood of Zubiri.

In the actions which took place on this day, the 20th regiment distinguished themselves.

Two divisions of the centre of the enemy's army attacked Sir Rowland Hill's position in the Puerto de Maya, at the head of the valley of Bastan, in the afternoon of the same day. The brunt of the action fell upon major-general Pringle's and major-general Walker's brigades in the second division, under the command of lieutenant-general the honourable William Stewart. These troops were at first obliged to give way ; but having been supported by major-general Barnes's brigade of the 7th division, they regained that part of their post which was the key of the



whole, and would have enabled them to re-assume it if circumstances had permitted it. But Sir Rowland Hill having been apprized of the necessity that Sir Lowry Cole should retire, deemed it expedient to withdraw his troops likewise to Irurita; and the enemy did not advance on the following day beyond the Puerto de Maya.

Notwithstanding the enemy's superiority of numbers, they acquired but little advantage over these brave troops during the seven hours they were engaged. All the regiments charged with the bayonet. The conduct of the 82d regiment, which moved up with major-general Barnes's brigade, is particularly reported.

Lieutenant-general the hon. William Stewart was slightly wounded.

I was not apprized of these events till late in the night of the 25th and 26th; and I adopted immediate measures to concentrate the army to the right, still providing for the siege of San Sebastian, and for the blockade of Pamplona.

This would have been effected early on the 27th, only that lieutenant-general Sir Lowry Cole and lieutenant-general Sir Thomas Picton concurred in thinking their post at Zubiri not tenable for the time during which it would have been necessary to wait in it. They therefore retired early on the 27th, and took up a position to cover the blockade of Pamplona, having the right, consisting of the 3d division, in front of Huarte, and



extending to the hills beyond Olaz, and the left, consisting of the 4th division, major-general Byng's, and brigadier-general Campbell's Portuguese brigade, on the heights in front of Villalba, having their left at a chapel behind Sorausen, on the high road from Ostiz to Pamplona, and their right resting upon a height which defended the high road from Zubiri and Roncesvalles. General Morillo's division of Spanish infantry, and that part of the Condé del Abisbal's corps not engaged in the blockade, were in reserve. From the latter the regiment of Travai, and that of El Principe, were detached to occupy part of the hill on the right of the 4th division, by which the road from Zubiri was defended.

The British cavalry under lieutenant-general Sir Stapleton Cotton were placed near Huarte on the right, being the only ground on which it was possible to use the cavalry.

The river Lanz runs in the valley which was on the left of the allied, and on the right of the French army, along the road to Ostiz. Beyond this river there is another range of mountains connected with Ligasso and Marcalain, by which places it was now necessary to communicate with the rest of the army.

I joined the 3d and 4th divisions just as they were taking up their ground on the 27th, and shortly afterwards the enemy formed their army

on a mountain, the front of which extends from the high road to Ostiz to the high road to Zubiri, and they placed one division on their left of that road on a height, and in some villages in front of the 3d division. They had here also a large body of cavalry.

In a short time after they had taken up their ground, the enemy attacked the hill on the right of the 4th division, which was then occupied by one battalion of the 4th Portuguese regiment, and by the Spanish regiment of Pravia.

These troops defended their ground, and drove the enemy from it with the bayonet. Seeing the importance of this hill to our position, I reinforced it with the 40th regiment; and this regiment, with the Spanish regiments of El Principe and Pravia, held it for some time, notwithstanding the repeated efforts of the enemy during the 27th and 28th to obtain possession of it.

Nearly at the same time that the enemy attacked this height on the 27th, they took possession of the village of Sorausen on the road to Ostiz, by which they acquired the communication by that road, and they kept up a fire of musketry along the line till it was dark.

We were joined on the morning of the 28th by the 6th division of infantry, and I directed that the heights should be occupied on the left of the valley of the Lanz; and that the 6th division

should form across the valley in rear of the left of the 4th division, resting their right on Oricain, and their left upon the heights above mentioned.

The 6th division had scarcely taken their position when they were attacked by a very large force of the enemy, which had been assembled in the village of Sorausen.

Their front was, however, so well defended by the fire of their own light troops from the heights on their left, and by the fire from the heights occupied by the 4th division and brigadier-general Campbell's Portuguese brigade, that the enemy were soon driven back with immense loss, from a fire on their front, both flanks and rear.

In order to extricate their troops from the difficulty in which they found themselves, in their situation in the valley of the Lanz, the enemy now attacked the height on which the left of the fourth division stood, which was occupied by the 7th caçadores, of which they obtained a momentary possession. They were attacked, however, again by the 7th caçadores, supported by major-general Ross, at the head of his brigade of the fourth division, and were driven down with great loss.

The battle now became general along the whole front of the heights occupied by the fourth division, and in every part in our favour, excepting where one battalion of the 10th Portuguese

regiment of major-general Campbell's brigade was posted. This battalion having been overpowered, and having been obliged to give way, immediately on the right of major-general Ross's brigade, the enemy established themselves on our line, and major-general Ross was obliged to withdraw from his post.

I, however, ordered the 27th and 48th regiments to charge, first that body of the enemy which had first established themselves on the height, and next those on the left. Both attacks succeeded, and the enemy were driven down with immense loss ; and the sixth division having moved forward at the same time to a situation in the valley, nearer to the left of the 4th, the attack upon this front ceased entirely, and was continued but faintly on other points of our line.

In the course of this contest the gallant fourth division, which has so frequently been distinguished in this army, surpassed their former good conduct. Every regiment charged with the bayonet ; and the 40th, the 7th, 20th, and 23d, four different times. Their officers set them the example, and major-general Ross had two horses shot under him. The Portuguese troops likewise behaved admirably ; and I had every reason to be satisfied with the conduct of the Spanish regiments del Principe and Pravia.

I had ordered lieutenant-general Sir Rowland



Hill to march by Lanz upon Lizasso, as soon as I found that lieutenant-generals Sir Thomas Picton and Sir Lowry Cole had moved from Zubiri ; and lieutenant-general the earl of Dalhousie from San Esteven to the same place, where both arrived on the 28th, and the seventh division came to Marcalain.

The enemy's force which had been in front of Sir Rowland Hill, followed his march, and arrived at Ostiz on the 29th. The enemy thus reinforced, and occupying a position in the mountains which appeared little liable to attack, and finding that they could make no impression on our front, determined to endeavour to turn our left, by an attack on Sir Rowland Hill's corps.

They reinforced with one division the troops which had been already opposed to him, still occupying the same points in the mountain on which was formed their principal force, but they drew in to their left the troops which occupied the heights opposite the third division, and they had, during the night of the 29th and 30th, occupied in strength the crest of the mountain on our left of the Lanz, opposite to the sixth and seventh divisions ; thus connecting their right in their position with the divisions detached to attack lieutenant-general Sir Rowland Hill.

I, however, determined to attack their position, and ordered lieutenant-general the Earl of Dal-



housie to possess himself of the top of the mountain in his front, by which the enemy's right would be turned, and lieutenant-general Sir Thomas Picton to cross the heights on which the enemy's left had stood, and to turn their left by the road to Roncesvalles. All the arrangements were made to attack the front of the enemy's position, as soon as the effect of these movements on their flanks should begin to appear. Major-general the honourable Edward Pakenham, whom I had sent to take the command of the 6th division, major-general Pack having been wounded, turned the village of Sorauzen, as soon as the Earl of Dalhousie had driven the enemy from the mountain, by which that flank was defended ; and the 6th division, and major-general Byng's brigade, which had relieved the 4th division on the left of our position on the road to Ostiz, instantly attacked and carried that village.

Lieutenant-general Sir Lowry Cole likewise attacked the front of the enemy's main position with the 7th caçadores, supported by the 11th Portuguese regiment, the 40th, and the battalion under colonel Bingham, consisting of the Queen's and 53d<sup>rd</sup> regiment. All these operations obliged the enemy to abandon a position which is one of the strongest and most difficult of access that I have yet seen occupied by troops.

In their retreat from this position the enemy lost a great number of prisoners.

I cannot sufficiently applaud the conduct of all the general officers, officers and troops throughout these operations. The attack made by lieutenant-general the Earl of Dalhousie was admirably conducted by his lordship, and executed by major-general Inglis and the troops composing his brigade; and that by major-general the honourable Edward Pakenham and major-general Byng, and that by lieutenant-general Sir Lowry Cole, and the movement made by Sir Thomas Picton, merit my highest commendation.

The latter officer co-operated in the attack of the mountain by detaching troops to his left, in which the honourable lieutenant-colonel Trench was wounded, but I hope not seriously.

While these operations were going on, and in proportion as I observed their success, I detached troops to the support of lieutenant-general Sir Rowland Hill.

The enemy appeared in his front late in the morning, and immediately commenced an extended manœuvre upon his left flank, which obliged him to withdraw from the height which he occupied behind the Lizasso to the next range. He there, however, maintained himself; and I enclose his report of the conduct of the troops.

I continued the pursuit of the enemy after their retreat from the mountain to Olaque, where I was at sunset, immediately in the rear of their attack upon lieutenant-general Sir Rowland Hill. They withdrew from his front in the night, and yesterday took up a strong position, with two divisions, to cover their rear in the pass of Donna Maria.

Lieutenant-general Sir Rowland Hill and the Earl of Dalhousie attacked and carried the pass, notwithstanding the vigorous resistance of the enemy, and the strength of their position. I am concerned to add, that lieutenant-general the honourable William Stewart was wounded upon this occasion.

I enclose lieutenant-general Sir Rowland Hill's report.

In the mean time I moved with major-general Byng's brigade, and the 4th division under lieutenant-general Sir Lowry Cole, by the pass of Villate upon Irurita, in order to turn the enemy's position on Donna Maria. Major-general Byng took, in Elizondo, a large convoy going to the enemy, and made many prisoners.

We have this day continued the pursuit of the enemy in the valley of the Bidassoa, and many prisoners and much baggage have been taken. Major-general Byng has possessed himself of the valley of Bastan, and of the position on the Puerto de Maya, and the army will be this night nearly

in the same positions which they occupied on the 25th July.

I trust that H. R. H. the Prince Regent will be satisfied with the conduct of the troops of His Majesty and of his allies on this occasion. The enemy having been considerably reinforced and re-equipped after their late defeat, made a most formidable attempt to relieve the blockade of Pamplona with the whole of their forces, excepting the reserve under general Villatte, which remained in front of our troops on the great road from Irun.

This attempt has been entirely frustrated by the operations of a part only of the allied army, and the enemy have sustained a defeat and suffered a severe loss in both officers and men.

The enemy's expectations of success, beyond the point of raising the blockade of Pamplona, were certainly very sanguine. They brought into Spain a large body of cavalry, and a great number of guns, neither of which arms could be used to any great extent by either party in the battle which took place. They sent off the guns to St. Jean de Pied de Port, on the evening of the 28th, which have thus returned to France in safety.

The detail of the operations will show your lordship how much reason I have to be satisfied



with the conduct of all the general officers, officers and troops. It is impossible to describe the enthusiastic bravery of the 4th division ; and I was much indebted to lieutenant-general Sir Lowry Cole for the manner in which he directed their operations ; to major-general Anson, major-general Ross, major-general Byng, and brigadier-general Campbell, of the Portuguese service. All the officers commanding, and the officers of the regiments, were remarkable for their gallantry ; but I particularly observed lieutenant-colonel O'Toole, of the 7th caçadores, in the charge upon the enemy on our left, on the 28th, and captain Joaquim Telles Jurdao, of the 11th Portuguese regiment, in the attack of the mountain on the 30th.

I beg to draw your lordship's attention likewise to the valuable assistance I received, throughout these operations, from lieutenant-general Sir Rowland Hill, from lieutenant-general the Earl of Dalhousie, and Sir Thomas Picton, in those of the 30th and 31st of July.

To the Conde del Abisbal also I am indebted for every assistance it was in his power to give, consistently with his attention to the blockade. I have already mentioned the conduct of the regiments of Pravia and El Principe, belonging to the army of reserve of Andalusia, in a most trying situation ; and the whole corps appeared



animated by the same zealous spirit which pervaded all the troops in that position.

Marshal Sir William Beresford was with me throughout these operations, and I received from him all the assistance which his talents so well qualify him to afford me. The good conduct of the Portuguese officers and troops in all the operations of the present campaign, and the spirit which they show on every occasion, are not less honourable to that nation, than they are to the military character of the officer, who, by his judicious measures, has re-established discipline, and revived a military spirit in the army.

I have again to draw your lordship's attention to the valuable assistance I received throughout these operations from the quartermaster-general major-general Murray, and the adjutant-general major-general Pakenham, and the officers of those departments respectively; and from lieutenant-colonel Lord Fitzroy Somerset, lieutenant-colonel Campbell, and the officers of my personal staff.

Although our wounded are numerous, I am happy to say that the cases in general are slight, and I have great pleasure in reporting to your lordship that the utmost attention has been paid to them by the inspector of hospitals, Dr. M'Gregor, and by the officers of the department under his directions.

Adverting to the extent and nature of our

operations, and the difficulties of our communications at times, I have reason to be extremely well satisfied with the zeal and exertions of Sir Robert Kennedy, the commissary-general, and the officers of his department, throughout the campaign, which upon the whole have been more successful in supplying the troops than could have been expected.

I transmit this dispatch to your lordship by his serene highness the hereditary Prince of Orange, who is perfectly acquainted with all that has passed, and with the situation of the army ; and will be able to inform your lordship of many details relating to this series of operations, for which a dispatch does not afford scope. His highness had a horse shot under him in the battle near Sorauren on the 28th of July.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(signed) WELLINGTON.

I have omitted to inform your lordship in the body of the dispatch, that the troops in the Puerto de Maya lost their four Portuguese guns on the 25th of July. Major-general Pringle, who commanded when the attack commenced, had ordered them to retire towards Maya ; and when lieutenant-general Stewart came up, he ordered that they might return, and retire by the mountain road to Elizondo. In the mean time the

enemy were in possession of the pass, and the communication with that road was lost, and they could not reach it.

I enclose returns of the loss before San Sebastian, from the 7th to the 27th of July ; and returns of the killed, wounded and missing, in the operations from the 25th ultimo to the 1st instant.

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My Lord,

July 31, 1813.

I HAVE the satisfaction to acquaint your lordship that although, from the immense superiority of force which the enemy directed against the position entrusted to my charge, yesterday, it became, in my opinion, imperiously necessary for me to retire from that ground: the conduct of the officers and troops, British and Portuguese, was such as to entitle them to my entire approbation, and I could not have wished it to be better.

Major-general Pringle, with major-general Walker's brigade, under lieutenant-colonel Fitzgerald, of the 60th regiment, supported by the 34th regiment, and 14th Portuguese regiment, opposed the ascent of the enemy to the ridge on the left of the position, in a most gallant style ; drove him repeatedly back, and although unable ultimately to prevent him from ascending the

ridge, by a more distant movement, our troops kept their ground firmly, and when ordered to retire, performed it under major-general Pringle, with the greatest regularity, and with small loss, covered by a battalion of the 14th Portuguese regiment, under lieutenant-colonel M'Donald, of the conduct of which officer, and the steadiness of his regiment, the major-general speaks in terms of the greatest praise.

Colonel Ashworth's brigade, also attacked in his position by a superior force, met the attack with the greatest steadiness, and drove the enemy before him at the point of the bayonet, and held his ground as long as I thought it prudent for him to do so; and a battalion of brigadier-general Costa's brigade held the ridge on the right of the position to the last, covering the formation of the troops on the ground they were directed to take up: the enemy attempted to force the point, but were repulsed by brigadier-general Costa, and finally driven down the ridge at the point of the bayonet, by that battalion, a part of colonel Ashworth's brigade, and a small detachment of the 28th regiment. On the whole, I can assure your lordship that the enemy had nothing to boast of, nor was our loss severe, considering the disparity of our forces.

I feel particularly indebted to major-general Pringle for his conduct on this occasion, as well



as to colonel Ashworth, colonel O'Callaghan, and lieutenant-colonel Fitzgerald, 60th foot, commanding brigades under him, and also to lieutenant-general the Conde d'Amarante and brigadier-general Costa, who was wounded.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(signed) ROWLAND HILL.

To Field-marshal Marquess of  
Wellington, K. G.

P. S. I must not omit to mention the services of colonel Pampluna and lieutenant-colonel Pyn, 18th regiment, lieutenant-colonel Grant and major Mitchell, commanding the 6th of the line, and 6th Portuguese, in colonel Ashworth's brigade.

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My Lord,

Elizondo, August 1, 1813.

I HAVE the honour to acquaint your lordship, that, in compliance with the instructions I received through major-general Murray, I proceeded yesterday with the column under my orders, on the road to Donna Maria. On our arrival at the foot of the pass, we found the enemy ascending the hill in great haste, and closely pressed by the 7th division, moving by a road parallel and to the right of that which my column was on. The rear of the enemy's column having began to ascend the hills before our



arrival, it was impossible to cut off any part of it. It was, however, considerably annoyed on its march by one nine-pounder and a howitzer. I immediately ordered the 2d division, under lieutenant-general Stewart, to ascend the hill by the road we were on, whilst the Earl of Dalhousie's column ascended by one more to the right. The enemy took up a strong position at the top of the pass, with a cloud of skirmishers in the front.

The attack on our side was led by lieutenant-general Stewart, with major-general Walker's brigade, under lieutenant-colonel Fitzgerald of the 60th, who forced back the enemy's skirmishers to the summit of the hill; but coming upon their main body, found them so numerous and so strongly posted, that lieutenant-general Stewart was induced to withdraw them until the seventh division should be in closer co-operation with him. About this time the lieutenant-general was wounded, and the command of the division devolved upon major-general Pringle, who, with his own brigade, commanded by colonel O'Callaghan, renewed the attack on our side, whilst the seventh division pressed them on the other, and both divisions gained the height about the same time, the enemy retiring, after sustaining a very considerable loss. The conduct of lieutenant-general Stewart, major-general Pringle,

and of the officers and troops in general, was conspicuously good, and I regret that the very thick fog prevented our taking that advantage of the situation of the enemy which we might otherwise have done.

A part of each division pursued them some distance down the hill, and occasioned them a considerable loss. Having thus far performed your lordship's instructions, I withdrew my column from the pass, and moved it upon Almandos.

Major-general Pringle praises the conduct of captain Heise and captain Thorn, on this occasion ; and I believe it is the intention of lieutenant-general Stewart to report the good conduct of some other officers, but his wound has probably delayed it.

I have, &c.

(signed) ROWLAND HILL,  
Lieut.-gen.

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My Lord,

Lezaca, 4th August, 1813.

THE Prince of Orange having been detained till this day for the returns, I have to inform your lordship that the enemy still continued posted in the morning of the 2d, with a force of two divisions on the Puerto de Echalar, and nearly the whole army behind the Puerto, when the 4th,

7th, and light divisions advanced by the valley of Bidassoa to the frontier, and I had determined to dislodge them by a combined attack and movement of the three divisions.

The seventh division, however, having crossed the mountains from Sumbilla, and having necessarily preceded the arrival of the fourth, major-general Barnes's brigade was formed for the attack, and advanced, before the fourth and light divisions could co-operate, with a regularity and gallantry which I have seldom seen equalled, and actually drove the two divisions of the enemy, notwithstanding the resistance opposed to them, from those formidable heights. It is impossible that I can extol too highly the conduct of major-general Barnes and these brave troops, which was the admiration of all who were witnesses of it.

Major-general Kempt's brigade of the light division, likewise drove a very considerable force from the rock which forms the left of the Puerto.

There is now no enemy in the field within this part of the Spanish frontier.

I have the honour to enclose lieutenant-general Sir Thomas Graham's report of the assault of San Sebastian.

While the troops were engaged in the neighbourhood of Pamplona, as reported in my dispatch of the 1st instant, brigadier-general Longa occupied with his division this part of the Bidassoa,

including the town of Vera. That part of the enemy's army which had been left in observation of the allied troops, on the great road from Irun, attacked him on the 28th, but were repulsed with considerable loss.

I have great pleasure in reporting the good conduct of these troops on all occasions; and likewise of a battalion of Spanish caçadores, in general Barcena's division of the Gallician army, which had been sent to the bridge of Yansi, on the enemy's retreat on the 1st instant, which it held against very superior numbers during a great part of the day.

Nothing of importance has occurred in Arragon since my dispatch of the 19th July.

I have a report from lieutenant general Lord William Bentinck, from Binaroz on the 21st July; and he was making preparations to cross the Ebro.

I have, &c.

(signed) WELLINGTON.

Earl Bathurst,  
&c. &c. &c.

P. S. I enclose a return of the killed and wounded in the attack of the enemy's position on the 2d instant.

*Abstract of Return of the Killed, Wounded and Missing, of the Allied Army, from the 25th to the 28th July 1813, inclusive.*

Total British loss:—One major, 7 captains, 12 lieutenants, 2 ensigns, 3 staff, 30 serjeants, 2 drummers, 324 rank and file, killed; 1 general staff, 7 lieutenant-colonels, 9 majors, 31 captains, 72 lieutenants, 24 ensigns, 3 staff, 105 serjeants, 5 drummers, 2,192 rank and file, 5 horses, wounded; 5 captains, 4 lieutenants, 4 ensigns, 1 staff, 10 serjeants, 7 drummers, 373 rank and file, 1 horse, missing.

Total Portuguese loss:—One major, 2 captains, 3 ensigns, 4 serjeants, 157 rank and file, killed; 5 lieutenant-colonels, 4 majors, 13 captains, 9 lieutenants, 12 ensigns, 3 staff, 41 serjeants, 6 drummers, 825 rank and file, wounded; 2 serjeants, 48 rank and file, missing.

Total Spanish loss:—Twenty-six rank and file killed; 12 officers, 155 rank and file, wounded; 11 rank and file missing.

Grand total:—Two majors, 9 captains, 12 lieutenants, 5 ensigns, 3 staff, 34 serjeants, 2 drummers, 507 rank and file, killed; 1 general staff, 12 lieutenant-colonels, 13 majors, 44 captains, 81 lieutenants, 36 ensigns, 12 Spanish officers, 6 staff, 146 serjeants, 11 drummers, 3,172



rank and file, 5 horses, wounded ; 5 captains, 4 lieutenants, 4 ensigns, 1 staff, 12 serjeants, 7 drummers, 432 rank and file, 1 horse, missing.

(signed) *E. Pakenham*, Adj.-gen.

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*July 30th, 1813.*

Total British loss:—One major, 2 captains, 6 serjeants, 72 rank and file, 3 horses, killed ; 1 general staff, 1 lieutenant-colonel, 3 majors, 9 captains, 18 lieutenants, 4 ensigns, 3 staff, 32 serjeants, 4 drummers, 394 rank and file, 4 horses, wounded ; 2 lieutenants, 3 serjeants, 52 rank and file, missing.

Total Portuguese loss:—One major, 1 captain, 1 lieutenant, 1 staff, 8 serjeants, 130 rank and file, killed ; 1 general staff, 1 colonel, 4 lieutenant-colonels, 5 majors, 8 captains, 8 lieutenants, 17 ensigns, 31 serjeants, 8 drummers, 760 rank and file, wounded ; 135 rank and file missing.

Grand total:—Two majors, 3 captains, 1 lieutenant, 1 staff, 14 serjeants, 202 rank and file, 3 horses, killed ; 2 general staff, 1 colonel, 5 lieutenant colonels, 8 majors, 17 captains, 26 lieutenants, 21 ensigns, 3 staff, 63 serjeants, 12 drummers, 1,154 rank and file, 4 horses, wounded ; 2 lieutenants, 3 serjeants, 187 rank and file, missing.

(signed) *E. M. Pakenham*, Adj.-gen.

### Orthes.

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London Gazette Extraordinary, March 20, 1814.

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#### *Letter from the Marquess of Wellington.*

My Lord,

St. Sever, March 1, 1814.

I RETURNED to Garris on the 21st, and ordered the 6th and light divisions to break up from the blockade of Bayonne, and general Don Manuel Freyre to close up the cantonments of his corps towards Irun, and to be prepared to move when the left of the army should cross the Adour.

I found the pontoons collected at Garris, and they were moved forward on the following days to and across the Gave de Mouleon, and the troops of the centre of the army arrived.

On the 24th, lieutenant-general Sir Rowland Hill passed the Gave d'Oleron at Villenave, with the light, 2d, and Portuguese divisions, under the command of major-general Charles Baron Alten, lieutenant-general Sir William Stewart, and marischal de campo Don Frederick Lecor; while lieutenant-general Sir Henry Clinton passed with the 6th division between Monfort and Laas, and lieutenant-general Sir Thomas Picton made demonstrations, with the 3d division, of an intention to attack the enemy's position at the bridge of

Sauveterre, which induced the enemy to blow up the bridge.

Marischal de campo Don Pablo Murillo drove in the enemy's posts near Naverrens, and blockaded that place.

Field-marshal Sir William Beresford likewise, who, since the movement of Sir Rowland Hill on the 14th and 15th, had remained with the 4th and 7th divisions, and colonel Vivian's brigade, in observation on the Lower Bidouze, attacked the enemy on the 23d in their fortified posts at Hastings and Oyergave, on the left of the Gave de Pau, and obliged them to retire within the tête-de-pont at Peyrehorade.

Immediately after the passage of the Gave d'Oleron was effected, Sir Rowland Hill and Sir Henry Clinton moved towards Orthes, and the great road leading from Sauveterre to that town ; and the enemy retired in the night from Sauveterre across the Gave de Pau, and assembled their army near Orthes on the 25th, having destroyed all the bridges on the river.

The right and right of the centre of the army assembled opposite Orthes. Lieutenant-general Sir Stapleton Cotton, with Lord Edward Somerset's brigade of cavalry, and the 3d division, under lieutenant-general Sir Thomas Picton, was near the destroyed bridge of Bereus, and field-marshal Sir W. Beresford, with the 4th and 7th

divisions, under lieutenant-general Sir Lowry Cole, and major-general Walker, and colonel Vivian's brigade, towards the junction of the Gave de Pau with the Gave d'Oleron.

The troops opposed to the marshal having marched on the 25th, he crossed the Gave de Pau below the junction of the Gave d'Oleron, on the morning of the 26th, and moved along the high road from Peyrehorade towards Orthes, on the enemy's right. As he approached, lieutenant-general Sir Stapleton Cotton crossed with the cavalry, and lieutenant-general Sir Thomas Picton with the 3d division, below the bridge of Bereus ; and I moved the 6th and light divisions to the same point, and lieutenant-general Sir Rowland Hill occupied the heights opposite Orthes, and the high road leading to Sauveterre.

The 6th and light divisions crossed on the morning of the 27th at daylight, and we found the enemy in a strong position near Orthes, with his right on the heights on the high road to Dax, and occupying the village of St. Boes, and his left on the heights above Orthes and that town, and opposing the passage of the river by Sir R. Hill.

The course of the heights on which the enemy had placed his army, necessarily retired his centre, while the strength of the position gave extraordinary advantages to the flanks.

I ordered marshal Sir W. Beresford to turn and



attack the enemy's right, with the 4th division under lieutenant-general Sir Lowry Cole, and the 7th division under major-general Walker, and colonel Vivian's brigade of cavalry; while lieutenant-general Sir Thomas Picton should move along the great road leading from Peyrehorade to Orthes, and attack the heights on which the enemy's centre and left stood, with the 3d and 6th divisions, supported by Sir Stapleton Cotton with Lord Edward Somerset's brigade of cavalry. Major-general Charles Baron Alten, with the light division, kept up the communication, and was in reserve between these two attacks. I likewise desired lieutenant-general Sir Rowland Hill to cross the Gave, and to turn and to attack the enemy's left.

Marshal Sir W. Beresford carried the village of St. Boes with the 4th division, under the command of lieutenant-general Sir Lowry Cole, after an obstinate resistance by the enemy; but the ground was so narrow that the troops could not deploy to attack the heights, notwithstanding the repeated attempts of major-general Ross and brigadier-general Vasconcello's Portuguese brigade; and it was impossible to turn the enemy by their right, without an excessive extension of our line.

I therefore so far altered the plan of the action, as to order the immediate advance of the 3d and



6th divisions, and I moved forward colonel Barnard's brigade of the light division, to attack the left of the height on which the enemy's right stood.

This attack, led by the 52d regiment, under lieutenant-colonel Colborne, and supported on their right by major-general Brisbane's and colonel Kean's brigades of the 3d division, and by simultaneous attacks on the left by major-general Anson's brigade of the 4th division, and on the right by lieutenant-general Sir Thomas Picton, with the remainder of the 3d division, and the 6th division under lieutenant-general Sir Henry Clinton, dislodged the enemy from the heights, and gave us the victory.

In the meantime lieutenant-general Sir Rowland Hill had forced the passage of the Gave above Orthes, and seeing the state of the action, he moved immediately with the second division of infantry under lieutenant-general Sir William Stewart, and major-general Fane's brigade of cavalry, direct for the great road from Orthes to St. Sever, thus keeping upon the enemy's left.

The enemy retired at first in admirable order, taking every advantage of the numerous good positions which the country afforded. The losses, however, which they sustained in the continued attacks of our troops, and the danger with which they were threatened by lieutenant-general Sir

Rowland Hill's movements, soon accelerated their movements, and the retreat at length became a flight; and their troops were in the utmost confusion.

Lieutenant-general Sir Stapleton Cotton took advantage of the only opportunity which offered to charge with major-general Lord Edward Somerset's brigade in the neighbourhood of Sault de Navailles, where the enemy had been driven from the high road by lieutenant-general Sir Rowland Hill. The 7th hussars distinguished themselves upon this occasion, and made many prisoners.

We continued the pursuit till it was dusk, and I halted the army in the neighbourhood of Sault de Navailles.

I cannot estimate the extent of the enemy's loss : we have taken six pieces of cannon and a great many prisoners, the numbers I cannot at present report. The whole country is covered by their dead. Their army was in the utmost confusion when I last saw it passing the heights near Sault de Navailles, and many soldiers had thrown away their arms. The desertion has since been immense.

We followed the enemy the day after to this place ; and we this day passed the Adour ; marshal Sir W. Beresford, with the light division, and colonel Vivian's brigade, upon Mont de Marsan, where he has taken a very large magazine of provisions.

Lieutenant-general Sir Rowland Hill has moved upon Aire, and the advanced posts of the centre are at Casares.

The enemy are apparently retiring upon Agen, and have left open the direct road towards Bourdeaux.

Whilst the operations, of which I have above given the report, were carrying on on the right of the army, lieutenant-general Sir John Hope, in concert with rear-admiral Penrose, availed himself of an opportunity which offered on the 23d of February, to cross the Adour below Bayonne, and to take possession of both banks of the river at its mouth. The vessels destined to form the bridge could not get in till the 24th, when the difficult, and at this season of the year dangerous, operation of bringing them in was effected with a degree of gallantry and skill seldom equalled. Lieutenant-general Sir John Hope particularly mentions captain O'Reilly and lieutenant Cheshire, lieutenant Douglas, and lieutenant Collins, of the royal navy, and also lieutenant Debenham, agent of transports ; and I am infinitely indebted to rear-admiral Penrose for the cordial assistance I received from him in preparing for this plan, and for that which he gave lieutenant-general Sir John Hope in carrying it into execution.

The enemy, conceiving that the means of crossing the river, which lieutenant-general Sir John

Hope had at his command; viz. rafts made of pontoons, had not enabled him to cross a large force in the course of the 23d, attacked the corps which he had sent over on that evening. This corps consisted of six hundred men of the 2d brigade of guards, under the command of major-general the honourable Edward Stopford, who repulsed the enemy immediately. The rocket brigade was of great use upon this occasion.

Three of the enemy's gun-boats were destroyed this day, and a frigate lying in the Adour received considerable damage from the fire of a battery of eighteen pounders, and was obliged to go higher up the river to the neighbourhood of the bridge.

Lieutenant general Sir John Hope invested the citadel of Bayonne on the 25th, and lieutenant-general Don Manuel Freyre moved forward with the fourth Spanish army, in consequence of directions which I had left for him. On the 27th, the bridge having been completed, lieutenant-general Sir John Hope deemed it expedient to invest the citadel of Bayonne more closely than he had done before ; and he attacked the village of St. Etienne, which he carried, having taken a gun and some prisoners from the enemy ; and his posts are now within nine hundred yards of the outworks of the place.

The result of the operations which I have detailed to your lordship is, that Bayonne, St.



Jean Pied de Port, and Navarrens, are invested, and the army having passed the Adour, are in possession of all the great communications across the river, after having beaten the enemy and taken their magazines.

Your lordship will have observed with satisfaction the able assistance which I have received in these operations from marshal Sir W. Beresford, lieutenant-general Sir Rowland Hill, Sir John Hope, and Sir Stapleton Cotton, and from all the general officers, officers and troops, acting under their orders respectively.

It is impossible for me sufficiently to express my sense of their merits, or of the degree in which the country is indebted to their zeal and ability for the situation in which the army now finds itself.

All the troops, Portuguese as well as British, distinguished themselves : the 4th division, under lieutenant-general Sir Lowry Cole, in the attack of St. Boes, and the subsequent endeavours to carry the right of the heights ; the 3d, 6th, and light divisions, under the command of lieutenant-general Sir Thomas Picton, Sir H. Clinton, major-general Charles Baron Alten, in the attack of the enemy's position on the heights ; and these and the 7th division, under Major-general Walker, in the various operations and attacks during the enemy's retreat.



The charge made by the 7th hussars under Lord Edward Somerset was highly meritorious.

The conduct of the artillery throughout the day deserved my entire approbation. I am likewise much indebted to the quartermaster-general Sir George Murray, and the adjutant-general Sir Edward Pakenham, for the assistance I have received from them, and to Lord Fitzroy Somerset and the officers of my personal staff, and to the marischal de campo Don Miguel Alava.

The last accounts which I have received from Catalonia are of the 20th. The French commanders of the garrisons of Llerida, Mequinenza, and Mauzon, had been induced to evacuate these places, by orders sent them by the Baron D'Eroles, in Marshal Suchet's cypher, of which he had got possession.

The troops composing these garrisons, having joined, were afterwards surrounded in the pass of Martorell, on their march towards the French frontier, by a detachment from the Anglo-Sicilian corps, and one from the first Spanish army. Lieutenant-general Copons allowed them to capitulate, but I have not yet received from him any report on this subject, nor do I yet know what is the result.

It was expected in Catalonia that marshal Suchet would immediately evacuate that province ; and I hear here that he is to join marshal Soult.

I have not yet received the detailed reports of the capitulation of Jaca.

I enclose returns of the killed and wounded during the late operations.

I send this dispatch by my aid-de-camp major Freemantle, whom I beg leave to recommend to your lordship's protection.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(signed) WELLINGTON.

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*Total Loss on the 27th of February.*

British:—1 major, 6 captains, 7 lieutenants, 1 staff, 21 serjeants, 2 drummers, 169 rank and file, killed; 2 general staff, 2 lieutenant-colonels, 7 majors, 30 captains, 49 lieutenants, 14 ensigns, 1 staff, 1 quarter-master, 67 serjeants, 11 drummers, 1,203 rank and file, 33 horses, wounded; 1 captain, 2 serjeants, 1 drummer, 27 rank and file, 1 horse, missing.

Portuguese:—1 lieutenant-colonel, 2 majors, 4 serjeants, 59 rank and file, killed; 2 lieutenant-colonels, 2 majors, 5 captains, 6 lieutenants, 11 ensigns, 20 serjeants, 6 drummers, 452 rank and file, wounded; 3 serjeants, 36 rank and file, missing.

(signed) E. M. Pakenham,  
Adj.-gen.

## Bordeaux.

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London Gazette Extraordinary, March 22, 1814.

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*Extract of Letter from the Marquess of Wellington.*

Aire, March 13, 1814.

THE excessive bad weather and violent fall of rain, in the beginning of the month, having swelled to an extraordinary degree all the rivers, and rendered it difficult and tedious to repair the numerous bridges, which the enemy had destroyed in their retreat, and the different parts of the army being without communication with each other, I was obliged to halt.

The enemy retired after the affair with lieutenant-general Sir Rowland Hill on the 2d, by both banks of the Adour towards Tarbes, probably with a view to be joined by the detachments from marshal Suchet's army, which left Catalonia in the last week in February.

In the mean time I sent, on the 7th, a detachment, under major-general Fane, to take possession of Pau; and another on the 8th, under marshal Sir William Beresford, to take possession of Bordeaux.

I have the pleasure to inform your lordship, that the marshal arrived there yesterday (the small force which was there having in the preceding evening retired across the Garonne), and that this important city is in our possession.

Lieutenant-general Don Manuel Frere joined the army this day, with that part of the 4th army under his immediate command, and I expect that major-general Ponsonby's brigade of cavalry will join to-morrow.

I learn from major-general Fane, who commands lieutenant-general Sir Rowland Hill's outposts, that the enemy have this day collected a considerable force in the neighbourhood of Couches, and I therefore conclude that they have been joined by the detachment of the army of Catalonia, which, it is reported, amounts to 10,000 men.

Nothing important has occurred at the blockade of Bayonne or in Catalonia since I addressed your lordship last.

## Toulouse.

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London Gazette Extraordinary, April 26, 1814.

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### *Letter from the Marquess of Wellington.*

My Lord,

Toulouse, April 12, 1814.

I HAVE the pleasure to inform your lordship that I entered this town this morning, which the enemy evacuated during the night, retiring by the road of Carcassone.

The continued fall of rain, and the state of the roads, prevented me from laying the bridge till the morning of the 8th, when the Spanish corps, and the Portuguese artillery, under the immediate orders of lieutenant-general Don Manuel Freyre, and the head-quarters, crossed the Garonne.

We immediately moved forward to the neighbourhood of the town, and the 18th hussars, under the immediate command of colonel Vivian, had an opportunity of making a most gallant attack upon a superior body of the enemy's cavalry, which they drove through the village of Croix d'Orade, and took about one hundred prisoners, and gave us possession of an important bridge over the river Ers, by which it was necessary to pass in order to attack the enemy's posi-



tion. Colonel Vivian was unfortunately wounded upon this occasion, and I am afraid that I shall lose the benefit of his assistance for some time.

The town of Toulouse is surrounded on three sides by the canal of Languedoc and the Garonne. On the left of that river, the suburb, which the enemy had fortified with strong field works in front of the ancient wall, formed a good tête-de-pont.

They had likewise formed a tête-de-pont at each bridge of the canal, which was besides defended by the fire, in some places of musquetry, and in all of artillery, from the ancient wall of the town. Beyond the canal to the eastward, and between that and the river Ers, is a height which extends as far as Montaudrau, and over which pass all the roads to the canal and town from the eastward, which it defends, and the enemy, in addition to the tête-de-pont on the bridges of the canal, had fortified the height with five redoubts, connected by lines of intrenchments, and had with extraordinary diligence made every preparation for defence. They had likewise broken all the bridges over the Ers within our reach, by which the right of their position could be approached. The roads, however, from the Ariège to Toulouse being impracticable for cavalry or artillery, and nearly so for infantry, as reported to your lordship in my despatch of the

1st instant, I had no alternative, excepting to attack the enemy in this formidable position.

It was necessary to move the pontoon bridge higher up the Garonne, in order to shorten the communication with lieutenant-general Sir Rowland Hill's corps, as soon as the Spanish corps had passed; and this operation was not effected till so late an hour on the 9th, as to induce me to defer the attack till the following morning.

The plan according to which I determined to attack the enemy, was for marshal Sir William Beresford, who was on the right of the Ers with the 4th and 6th divisions, to cross that river at the bridge of Croix d'Orade, to gain possession of Montblanc, and to march up the left of the Ers to turn the enemy's right, while lieutenant-general Don Manuel Freyre, with the Spanish corps under his command, supported by the British cavalry, should attack the front. Lieutenant-general Sir Stapleton Cotton was to follow the marshal's movement, with major-general Lord Edward Somerset's brigade of hussars; and colonel Vivian's brigade, under the command of colonel Arentschild, was to observe the movement of the enemy's cavalry on both banks of the Ers beyond our left.

The 3d and light divisions, under the command of lieutenant-general Sir Thomas Picton and major-general Charles Baron Alten, and the bri-

gade of German cavalry, were to observe the enemy on the lower part of the canal, and to draw their attention to that quarter by threatening the tête-de-pont, while lieutenant-general Sir Rowland Hill was to do the same on the suburb on the left of the Garonne.

Marshal Sir William Beresford crossed the Ers, and formed his corps in three columns of lines in the village of Croix d'Orade, the 4th division leading, with which he immediately carried Monblanc. He then moved up the Ers in the same order, over most difficult ground, in a direction parallel to the enemy's fortified position: and as soon as he reached the point at which he turned it, he formed his lines and moved to the attack. During these operations lieutenant-general Don Manuel Freyre moved along the left of the Ers to the front of Croix d'Orade, where he formed his corps in two lines, with a reserve on a height in front of the left of the enemy's position, on which height the Portuguese artillery was placed; and major-general Ponsonby's brigade of cavalry in reserve in the rear.

As soon as formed, and that it was seen that marshal Sir William Beresford was ready, lieutenant-general Don Manuel Freyre moved forward to the attack. The troops marched in good order under a very heavy fire of musquetry and artillery, and showed great spirit, the general and

all his staff being at their head ; and the two lines were soon lodged under some banks immediately under the enemy's entrenchments ; the reserve and Portuguese artillery, and British cavalry, continuing on the heights on which the troops had first formed. The enemy, however, repulsed the movement of the right of general Freyre's line round their left flank, and having followed up their success, and turned our right by both sides of the high road leading from Toulouse to Croix d'Orade, they soon compelled the whole corps to retire. It gave me great satisfaction to see that although they suffered considerably in retiring, the troops rallied again as soon as the light division, which was immediately on their right, moved up ; and I cannot sufficiently applaud the exertions of lieutenant-general Don Manuel Freyre, the officers of the staff of the 4th Spanish army, and of the officers of the general staff, to rally and form them again.

Lieutenant-general Mendizabel, who was in the field as a volunteer, general Espeletta, and several officers of the staff, and chiefs of corps, were wounded upon this occasion ; but general Mendizabel continued in the field. The regiment do Tirad. de Cantabria, under the command of colonel Sicilio, kept its position, under the enemy's entrenchments, until I ordered them to retire.

In the mean time marshal Sir William Beres-



ford, with the 4th division, under the command of lieutenant-general Sir Lowry Cole, and the 6th division, under the command of lieutenant-general Sir Henry Clinton, attacked and carried the heights on the enemy's right, and the redoubt which covered and protected that flank; and he lodged those troops on the same heights with the enemy, who were, however, still in possession of four redoubts, and of the entrenchments and fortified houses.

The badness of the roads had induced the marshal to leave his artillery in the village of Montblanc; and some time elapsed before it could be brought to him, and before lieutenant-general Don Manuel Freyre's corps could be reformed and brought back to the attack: as soon as this was effected the marshal continued his movement along the ridge, and carried, with general Pack's brigade of the 6th division, the two principal redoubts and fortified houses in the enemy's centre. The enemy made a desperate effort from the canal to regain these redoubts, but they were repulsed with considerable loss; and the 6th division continuing its movement along the ridge of the height, and the Spanish troops continuing a corresponding movement upon the front, the enemy were driven from the two redoubts and intrenchments on the left, and the whole range of heights were in our posses-



sion. We did not gain this advantage, however, without severe loss, particularly in the brave 6th division. Lieutenant-colonel Coghlan, of the 61st, an officer of great merit and promise, was unfortunately killed in the attack of the heights. Major-general Pack was wounded, but was enabled to remain in the field; and colonel Douglas, of the 8th Portuguese regiment, lost his leg, and I am afraid I shall be deprived for a considerable time of his assistance.

The 36th, 42d, 79th, and 61st regiments lost considerable numbers, and were highly distinguished throughout the day.

I cannot sufficiently applaud the ability and conduct of marshal Sir Wm. Beresford throughout the operations of the day; nor that of lieutenant-generals Sir Lowry Cole, Sir Henry Clinton; major-generals Pack and Lambert, and the troops under their command. Marshal Sir Wm. Beresford particularly reports the good conduct of brigadier-general D'Urband, the quartermaster-general, and general Brito Mozinho, the adjutant-general of the Portuguese army.

The 4th division, although exposed on their march along the enemy's front in a galling fire, were not so much engaged as the 6th division, and did not suffer so much; but they conducted themselves with their usual gallantry.

I had also every reason to be satisfied with the

conduct of lieut.-general Don Manuel Freyre, lieutenant.-general Don Gabriel Mendizabel, mariscal de campo Don Pedro de la Barcena, brigadier-general Don J. de Espellata, mariscal de campo Don A. Garces de Marcilla, and the chief of the staff Don E. S. Salvador, and the officers of the staff of the fourth army. The officers and troops conducted themselves well in all the attacks which they made subsequent to their being re-formed.

The ground not having admitted of the operations of the cavalry, they had no opportunity of charging.

While the operations above detailed were going forward on the left of the army, lieutenant-general Sir Rowland Hill drove the enemy from their exterior works in the suburb, on the left of the Garonne, within the ancient wall. Lieutenant-general Sir Thomas Picton likewise with the 3d division drove the enemy within the tête-de-pont on the bridge of the canal nearest to the Garonne, but the troops having made an effort to carry it, they were repulsed, and some loss was sustained. Major-general Brisbane was wounded; but I hope not so as to deprive me for any length of time of his assistance; and lieutenant-colonel Forbes, of the 45th, an officer of great merit, was killed.

The army being thus established on three sides of Toulouse, I immediately detached our light

cavalry to cut off the communication by the only road practicable for carriages which remained to the enemy, till I should be enabled to make arrangements to establish the troops between the canal and the Garonne.

The enemy, however, retired last night, leaving in our hands general d'Harispe, general Burrot, general St. Hilaire, and sixteen hundred prisoners. One piece of cannon was taken on the field of battle; and others, and large quantities of stores of all descriptions, in the town.

Since I sent my last report, I have received an account from rear-admiral Penrose, of the successes in the Gironde of the boats of the squadron under his command.

Lieutenant-general the Earl of Dalhousie crossed the Garonne nearly about the time that admiral Penrose entered the river, and pushed the enemy's parties under general L'Huillier beyond the Dordagne. He then crossed the Dordagne on the 4th near St. Andre de Cubzac, with a detachment of the troops under his command, with a view to the attack of the Fort of Blaye. His lordship found general L'Huillier and general Des Barreaux posted near Etauliers, and made his disposition to attack them, when they retired, leaving about three hundred prisoners in his hands. I enclose the Earl of Dalhousie's report of this affair.

In the operations which I have now reported, I have had every reason to be satisfied with the assistance I received from the quartermaster and adjutant-general, and the officers of their departments respectively; from marescal de campo Don Louis Wimpfen, and the officers of the Spanish staff, and from major-general Alava, from colonel Dickson, commanding the allied artillery, from lieutenant-colonel Lord Fitzroy Somerset, and the officers of my personal staff.

I send this dispatch by my aid-de-camp, major Lord William Russell, whom I beg leave to recommend to your lordship's protection.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(signed) WELLINGTON.

I enclose a return of the killed and wounded in the late operations.

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*Abstract Return of Killed, Wounded and Missing, of the Army under the Command of His Excellency Field-marshal the Marquess of Wellington, in Action with the Enemy from the 22d of March to 8th April 1814, inclusive.*

Total British loss—3 rank and file, 3 horses, killed; 1 colonel, 1 captain, 1 lieutenant, 4 serjeants, 24 rank and file, 30 horses, wounded; 1 serjeant, 9 rank and file, 9 horses, missing.



## Waterloo.

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London Gazette Extraordinary, 22 June 1815.

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### *Letter from the Duke of Wellington.*

My Lord,

Waterloo, June 19, 1815.

BUONAPARTE having collected the 1st, 2d, 3d, 4th and 6th corps of the French army, and the imperial guards, and nearly all the cavalry, on the Sambre, and between that river and the Meuse, between the 10th and 14th of the month, advanced on the 15th and attacked the Prussian posts at Thuin and Lobez, on the Sambre, at daylight in the morning.

I did not hear of these events till the evening of the 15th, and I immediately ordered the troops to prepare to march ; and afterwards to march to their left, as soon as I had intelligence from other quarters to prove that the enemy's movement upon Charleroy was the real attack.

The enemy drove the Prussian posts from the Sambre on that day ; and general Zieten, who commanded the corps which had been at Charleroy, retired upon Fleurus ; and marshal Prince Blucher concentrated the Prussian army upon Sombref, holding the villages in front of his position of St. Amand and Ligny.



The enemy continued his march along the road from Charleroy towards Bruxelles, and on the same evening, the 15th, attacked a brigade of the army of the Netherlands, under the Prince de Weimar, posted at Frasne, and forced it back to the farm-house on the same road, called Les Quatre Bras.

The Prince of Orange immediately reinforced this brigade with another of the same division, under general Perponcher, and in the morning early regained part of the ground which had been lost, so as to have the command of the communication leading from Nivelles and Bruxelles, with marshal Blucher's position.

In the mean time I had directed the whole army to march upon Les Quatre Bras, and the 5th division, under lieutenant-general Sir Thomas Picton, arrived at about half-past two in the day, followed by the corps of troops under the Duke of Brunswick, and afterwards by the contingent of Nassau.

At this time the enemy commenced an attack upon Prince Blucher with his whole force, excepting the 1st and 2d corps, and a corps of cavalry under general Kellerman, with which he attacked our post at Les Quatre Bras.

The Prussian army maintained their position with their usual gallantry and perseverance, against a great disparity of numbers, as the 4th corps of their army, under general Bulow, had

not joined, and I was not able to assist them as I wished, as I was attacked myself, and the troops, the cavalry in particular, which had a long distance to march, had not arrived.

We maintained our position also, and completely defeated and repulsed all the enemy's attempts to get possession of it. The enemy repeatedly attacked us with a large body of infantry and cavalry, supported by a numerous and powerful artillery; he made several charges with the cavalry upon our infantry, but all were repulsed in the steadiest manner. In this affair, his royal highness the Prince of Orange, the Duke of Brunswick, and lieutenant-general Sir Thomas Picton, and major-general Sir James Kempt, and Sir Denis Pack, who were engaged from the commencement of the enemy's attack, highly distinguished themselves, as well as lieutenant-general Charles Baron Alten, major-general Sir C. Halket, lieutenant-general Cooke, and major-generals Maitland and Byng, as they successively arrived. The troops of the 5th division and those of the Brunswick corps were long and severely engaged, and conducted themselves with the utmost gallantry. I must particularly mention the 28th, 42d, 79th, and 92d regiments, and the battalion of Hanoverians.

Our loss was great, as your lordship will perceive by the enclosed return, and I have particularly to regret his serene highness the Duke of

Brunswick, who fell fighting gallantly at the head of his troops.

Although marshal Blucher had maintained his position at Sambref, he still found himself much weakened by the severity of the contest in which he had been engaged, and as the fourth corps had not arrived, he determined to fall back, and concentrate his army upon Wavre; and he marched in the night after the action was over.

This movement of the marshal's rendered necessary a corresponding one on my part; and I retired from the farm of Quatre Bras upon Genappe, and thence upon Waterloo the next morning, the 17th, at ten o'clock.

The enemy made no effort to pursue marshal Blucher. On the contrary, a patrol which I sent to Sambref in the morning, found all quiet, and the enemy's videttes fell back as the patrol advanced. Neither did he attempt to molest our march to the rear, although made in the middle of the day, excepting by following with a large body of cavalry, brought from his right, the cavalry under the Earl of Uxbridge.

This gave Lord Uxbridge an opportunity of charging them with the 1st life guards, upon their débouché from the village of Genappe, upon which occasion his lordship has declared himself to be well satisfied with that regiment.

The position which I took up in front of

Waterloo, crossed the high roads from Charleroy and Nivelles, and had its right thrown back to a ravine near Merke Braine, which was occupied ; and its left extended to a height above the hamlet Ter la Haye, which was likewise occupied. In front of the right centre and near the Nivelles road, we occupied the house and garden of Hougomont, which covered the return of that flank ; and in front of the left centre, we occupied the farm of La Haye Sainte. By our left we communicated with marshal Prince Blücher, at Wavre through Ohain ; and the marshal had promised me that in case we should be attacked he would support me with one or more corps, as might be necessary.

The enemy collected his army, with the exception of the third corps, which had been sent to observe marshal Blücher, on a range of heights in our front, in the course of the night of the 17th and yesterday morning : and at about ten o'clock he commenced a furious attack upon our post at Hougomont. I had occupied that post with a detachment from general Byng's brigade of guards, which was in position in its rear ; and it was for some time under the command of lieutenant-colonel Macdonell, and afterwards of colonel Home ; and I am happy to add, that it was maintained throughout the day with the utmost gallantry by these brave troops, notwithstanding the



repeated efforts of large bodies of the enemy to obtain possession of it.

This attack upon the right of our centre was accompanied by a very heavy cannonade upon our whole line, which was destined to support the repeated attacks of cavalry and infantry occasionally mixed, but sometimes separate, which were made upon it. In one of these, the enemy carried the farm-house of La Haye Sainte, as the detachment of the light battalion of the legion which occupied it had expended all its ammunition, and the enemy occupied the only communication there was with them.

The enemy repeatedly charged our infantry with his cavalry, but these attacks were uniformly unsuccessful, and they afforded opportunities to our cavalry to charge, in one of which Lord E. Somerset's brigade, consisting of the life guards, royal horse guards, and 1st dragoon guards, highly distinguished themselves; as did that of major-general Sir W. Ponsonby, having taken many prisoners and an eagle.

These attacks were repeated till about seven in the evening, when the enemy made a desperate effort with the cavalry and infantry, supported by the fire of artillery, to force our left centre near the farm of La Haye Sainte, which after a severe contest was defeated; and having observed that the troops retired from this attack in great con-



fusion, and that the march of general Bulow's corps by Euschermont upon Planchenorte and La Belle Alliance, had begun to take effect, and as I could perceive the fire of his cannon, and as marshal Prince Blucher had joined in person with a corps of his army to the left of our line by Ohaim, I determined to attack the enemy, and immediately advanced the whole line of infantry, supported by the cavalry and artillery. The attack succeeded in every point ; the enemy was forced from his position on the heights and fled in the utmost confusion, leaving behind him, as far as I could judge, one hundred and fifty pieces of cannon, with their ammunition, which fell into our hands. I continued the pursuit till long after dark, and then discontinued it only on account of the fatigue of our troops, who had been engaged during twelve hours, and because I found myself on the same road with marshal Blucher, who assured me of his intention to follow the enemy throughout the night ; he has sent me word this morning that he had taken sixty pieces of cannon belonging to the imperial guard, and several carriages, baggage, &c. belonging to Buonaparte, in Genappe.

I propose to move this morning upon Nivelles, and not to discontinue my operations.

Your lordship will observe, that such a desperate action could not be fought, and such advan-

tages could not be gained, without great loss ; and I am sorry to add, that ours has been immense. In lieutenant-general Sir Thomas Picton, His Majesty has sustained the loss of an officer who has frequently distinguished himself in his service, and he fell, gloriously leading his division to a charge with bayonets, by which one of the most serious attacks made by the enemy on our position was defeated. The Earl of Uxbridge, after having successfully got through this arduous day, received a wound by almost the last shot fired, which will, I am afraid, deprive His Majesty for some time of his services.

His royal highness the Prince of Orange distinguished himself by his gallantry and conduct, till he received a wound from a musket ball through the shoulder, which obliged him to quit the field.

It gives me the greatest satisfaction to assure your lordship, that the army never, upon any occasion, conducted itself better. The division of guards, under lieutenant-general Cooke, who is severely wounded, major-general Maitland and major-general Byng, set an example which was followed by all ; and there is no officer, nor description of troops that did not behave well.

I must, however, particularly mention, for His Royal Highness's approbation, lieutenant-general Sir H. Clinton, major-general Adam, lieutenant-general Charles Baron Alten, severely wounded ;

major-general Sir Colin Halket, severely wounded ; colonel Ompteda, colonel Mitchell, commanding a brigade of the 4th division ; major-generals Sir James Kempt and Sir Denis Pack, major-general Lambert, major-general Lord E. Somerset, major-general Sir W. Ponsonby, major-general Sir C. Grant, and major-general Sir H. Vivian ; major-general Sir O. Vandeleur ; major-general Count Dornberg. I am also particularly indebted to general Lord Hill for his assistance and conduct upon this as upon all former occasions.

The artillery and engineer departments were conducted much to my satisfaction by colonel Sir G. Wood and colonel Smyth ; and I had every reason to be satisfied with the conduct of the adjutant-general, major-general Barnes, who was wounded, and of the quartermaster-general, colonel De Lancey, who was killed by a cannon shot in the middle of the action. This officer is a serious loss to His Majesty's service, and to me at this moment. I was likewise much indebted to the assistance of lieutenant-colonel Lord Fitzroy Somerset, who was severely wounded, and of the officers composing my personal staff, who have suffered severely in this action. Lieutenant-colonel the honourable Sir Alexander Gordon, who has died of his wounds, was a most promising officer, and is a serious loss to His Majesty's service.

General Kruse, of the Nassau service, likewise conducted himself much to my satisfaction, as did general Trip, commanding the heavy brigade of cavalry, and general Vanhope, commanding a brigade of infantry of the King of the Netherlands.

General Pozzo di Borgo, general Baron Vincent, general Muffling, and general Alava, were in the field during the action, and rendered me every assistance in their power. Baron Vincent is wounded, but I hope not severely ; and general Pozzo di Borgo received a contusion.

I should not do justice to my feelings, or to marshal Blucher and the Prussian army, if I did not attribute the successful result of this arduous day to the cordial and timely assistance I received from them.

The operation of general Bulow upon the enemy's flank was a most decisive one ; and even if I had not found myself in a situation to make the attack, which produced the final result, it would have forced the enemy to retire, if his attacks should have failed, and would have prevented him from taking advantage of them, if they should unfortunately have succeeded.

I send, with this dispatch, two eagles, taken by the troops in this action, which major Percy will have the honour of laying at the feet of his Royal Highness.



I beg leave to recommend him to your lordship's protection.

I have the honour, &c.

(signed) WELLINGTON.

P. S. Since writing the above, I have received a report that major-general Sir William Ponsonby is killed ; and, in announcing this intelligence to your lordship, I have to add the expression of my grief for the fate of an officer who had already rendered very brilliant and important services, and was an ornament to his profession.

2d P. S. I have not yet got the returns of killed and wounded, but I enclose a list of officers killed and wounded on the two days, as far as the same can be made out without the returns ; and I am very happy to add that colonel De Lancey is not dead, and that strong hopes of his recovery are entertained.

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*Bulletin, Prussian Army.*

OFFICIAL REPORT OF THE OPERATIONS OF THE  
PRUSSIAN ARMY OF THE LOWER RHINE.

*June 16.—Battle of Ligny.*

THE Prussian army was posted on the heights between Brie and Sombref, and beyond the last place, and occupied with a large force the villages



of St. Amand and Ligny, situated in its front. Mean time only three corps of the army had joined ; the fourth, which was stationed between Liege and Hannut, had been delayed in its march by several circumstances, and was not yet come up. Nevertheless, field-marshal Blucher resolved to give battle, Lord Wellington having already put in motion to support him a strong division of his army, as well as his whole reserve, stationed in the environs of Brussels, and the fourth corps of the Prussian army being also on the point of arriving.

The battle began at three o'clock in the afternoon. The enemy brought up above 130,000 men. The Prussian army was 80,000 strong. The village of St. Amand was the first point attacked by the enemy, who carried it after a vigorous resistance.

He then directed his efforts against Ligny : it is a large village, solidly built, situated on a rivulet of the same name. It was there that the contest began which may be considered as one of the most obstinate recorded in history. Villages have often been taken and retaken ; but here the combat continued for five hours in the villages themselves, and the movements forwards or backwards were confined to a very narrow space. On both sides fresh troops continually came up. Each party had behind the part of the village which it occupied

great masses of infantry, which maintained the combat, and were continually renewed by the reinforcements which they received from their rear, as well as from the heights on the right and left. About two hundred cannon were directed from both sides against the village, which was on fire in several places at once. From time to time the combat extended along the whole line, the enemy having also directed numerous troops against the third corps ; however, the main contest was near Ligny. Things seemed to take a favourable turn for the Prussian troops, a part of the village of St. Amand having been retaken by a battalion commanded by the field-marshal in person ; in consequence of which advantage, we had regained a height which had been abandoned after the loss of St. Amand. Nevertheless, the battle continued about Ligny with the same fury. The issue seemed to depend upon the arrival of the English troops, or on that of the fourth corps of the Prussian army ; in fact, the arrival of this last division would have afforded the field-marshal the means of making, immediately, with the right wing, an attack, from which great success might have been expected ; but news arrived that the English division destined to support us was violently attacked by a corps of the French army, and that it was with great difficulty it had maintained itself in its position at Quatre Bras. The

fourth corps of the army did not appear, so that we were forced to maintain alone the contest with an army greatly superior. The evening was much advanced, and the combat about Ligny continued with the same fury and the same equality of success ; we invoked, but in vain, the arrival of those succours which were so necessary ; the danger became every hour more and more urgent ; all the divisions were engaged or had already been so, and there were not any corps at hand able to support them. Suddenly, a division of the enemy's infantry, which by favour of the night had made a circuit round the village, without being observed, at the same time that some regiments of cuirassiers had forced the passage on the other side, took in the rear the main body of our army, which was posted behind the houses. This surprise on the part of the enemy was decisive, especially at the moment when our cavalry, also posted on a height behind the village, was repulsed by the enemy's cavalry in repeated attacks.

Our infantry posted behind Ligny, though forced to retreat, did not suffer itself to be discouraged, either by being surprised by the enemy in the darkness, a circumstance which exaggerates in the mind of man the dangers to which he finds himself exposed, or by the idea of seeing itself surrounded on all sides. Formed in masses, it coolly repulsed all the attacks of the cavalry, and

retreated in good order upon the heights, whence it continued its retrograde movement upon Tilly. In consequence of the sudden irruption of the enemy's cavalry, several of our cannon in their precipitate retreat had taken directions which led them to defiles, in which they necessarily fell into disorder ; in this manner, fifteen pieces fell into the hands of the enemy. At the distance of a quarter of a league from the field of battle, the army formed again. The enemy did not venture to pursue it. The village of Brie remained in our possession during the night, as well as Sombref, where general Thielman had fought with the third corps, and whence he at day-break slowly began to retreat towards Gembloux, where the corps under general Bulow had at length arrived during the night. The first and second corps proceeded in the morning behind the defile of Mount St. Guibert. Our loss in killed and wounded was great ; the enemy, however, took from us no prisoners, except a part of our wounded. The battle was lost, but not our honour. Our soldiers had fought with a bravery which equalled every expectation ; their fortitude remained unshaken, because every one retained his confidence in his own strength. On this day, field-marshal Blucher had encountered the greatest dangers. A charge of cavalry, led on by himself, had failed. While that of the enemy was vigorously pursuing, a mus-



ket-shot struck the marshal's horse : the animal, far from being stopped in his career by this wound, began to gallop more furiously, till it dropped down dead. The field-marshal, stunned by the violent fall, lay entangled under the horse. The enemy's cuirassiers, following up their advantage, advanced ; our last horseman had already passed by the field-marshal ; an adjutant alone remained with him, and had just alighted, resolved to share his fate. The danger was great, but Heaven watched over us. The enemy, pursuing their charge, passed rapidly by the field-marshal without seeing him ; the next moment, a second charge of our cavalry having repulsed them, they again passed by him with the same precipitation, not perceiving him, any more than they had done the first time. Then, but not without difficulty, the field-marshal was disengaged from under the dead horse, and he immediately mounted a dragoon horse.

On the 17th, in the evening, the Prussian army concentrated itself in the environs of Wavre. Napoleon put himself in motion against Lord Wellington, upon the great road leading from Charleroi to Brussels. An English division maintained, on the same day, near Quatre Bras, a very severe contest with the enemy. Lord Wellington had taken a position on the road to Brussels, having his right wing leaning upon Braine-la-Leu, the



centre near Mont St. Jean, and the left wing against La Haye Sainte. Lord Wellington wrote to the field-marshal that he was resolved to accept the battle in this position, if the field-marshal would support him with two corps of his army. The field-marshal promised to come with his whole army : he even proposed, in case Napoleon should not attack, that the allies themselves, with their whole united force, should attack him the next day. This may serve to show how little the battle of the 16th had disorganized the Prussian army, or weakened its moral strength. Thus ended the day of the 17th.

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*Battle of the Eighteenth.*

AT break of day, the Prussian army again began to move. The 4th and 2d corps marched by St. Lambert, where they were to take a position, covered by the forest, near Frichemont, to take the enemy in the rear, when the moment should appear favourable. The first corps was to operate by Ohain on the right flank of the enemy. The third corps was to follow slowly, in order to afford succour in case of need. The battle began about 10 o'clock in the morning. The English army occupied the heights of Mont St. Jean ; that of the French was on the heights before Planchenoit ;

the former was about 80,000 strong ; the enemy had about 130,000. In a short time the battle became general along the whole line. It seems that Napoleon had the design to throw the left wing upon the centre, and thus to effect the separation of the English army from the Prussian, which he believed to be retreating upon Maestricht. For this purpose, he had placed the greatest part of his reserve in the centre, against his right wing, and upon this point he attacked with fury. The English army fought with a valour which it is impossible to surpass. The repeated charges of the old guard was baffled by the intrepidity of the Scotch regiments; and at every charge the French cavalry was overthrown by the English cavalry. But the superiority of the enemy in numbers was too great; Napoleon continually brought forward considerable masses, and with whatever firmness the English troops maintained themselves in their position, it was not possible but that such heroic exertions must have a limit.

It was half-past four o'clock. The excessive difficulties of the passage by the defile of St. Lambert had considerably retarded the march of the Prussian columns, so that only two brigades of the fourth corps had arrived at the covered position which was assigned to them. The decisive moment was come; there was not a moment to be lost. The generals did not suffer it to escape,

they resolved immediately to begin the attack with the troops which they had at hand. General Bulow, therefore, with two brigades and a corps of cavalry, advanced rapidly upon the rear of the enemy's right wing. The enemy did not lose his presence of mind ; he instantly turned his reserve against us, and a murderous conflict began on that side. The combat remained long uncertain, while the battle with the English army still continued with the same violence.

Towards six o'clock in the evening we received the news that general Thielman, with the third corps, was attacked near Wavre by a very considerable corps of the enemy, and that they were already disputing the possession of the town. The field-marshal, however, did not suffer himself to be disturbed by this news ; it was on the spot where he was, and no where else, that the affair was to be decided. A conflict, continually supported by the same obstinacy, and kept up by fresh troops, could alone insure the victory ; and if it were obtained here, any reverse sustained near Wavre was of little consequence. The columns, therefore, continued their movements. It was half an hour past seven, and the issue of the battle was still uncertain. The whole of the 4th corps and a part of the 2d under general Pvich had successively come up. The French troops fought with desperate fury ; however, some un-

certainly was perceived in their movements, and it was observed that some pieces of cannon were retreating. At this moment the first columns of the corps of Genethen Ziethen arrived on the points of attack, near the village of Smouhen, on the enemy's right flank, and instantly charged. This moment decided the defeat of the enemy, his right wing was broken in three places ; he abandoned his positions. Our troops rushed forward at the *pas de charge*, and attacked him on all sides, while at the same time the whole English line advanced.

Circumstances were extremely favourable to the attack formed by the Prussian army ; the ground rose in an amphitheatre, so that our artillery could freely open its fire from the summit of a great many heights which rose gradually above each other, and in the intervals of which, the troops descended into the plain, formed into brigades, and in the greatest order ; while fresh corps continually unfolded themselves, issuing from the forest on the height behind us. The enemy, however, still preserved means to retreat, till the village of Planchenoit, which he had on his rear, and which was defended by the guard, was, after several bloody attacks, carried by storm. From that time the retreat became a rout, which soon spread through the whole French army, which in its dreadful confusion, hurrying away every thing



that attempted to stop it, soon assumed the appearance of the flight of an army of barbarians. It was half-past nine ; the field-marshal assembled all the superior officers, and gave orders to send the last horse and the last man in pursuit of the enemy. The van of the army accelerated its march. The French being pursued without intermission, were absolutely disorganized ; the causeway presented the appearance of an immense shipwreck ; it was covered with an innumerable quantity of cannon, caissons, carriages, baggage, arms and wrecks of every kind. Those of the enemy who had attempted to repose for a time, and had not expected to be so quickly pursued, were driven from more than nine bivouacs. In some villages they attempted to maintain themselves ; but as soon as they heard the beating of our drums or the sound of the trumpet, they either fled or threw themselves into the houses, where they were cut down or made prisoners. It was moonlight, which greatly favoured the pursuit, for the whole march was but a continued chace either in the cornfields or the houses.

At Genappe, the enemy had entrenched himself with cannon and overturned carriages ; at our approach we suddenly heard in the town a great noise and a motion of carriages : at the entrance we were exposed to a brisk fire of musquetry ; we replied by some cannon shot, followed by an



*hurrah*, and an instant after the town was ours. It was here that, among many other equipages, the carriage of Napoleon was taken ; he had just left it to mount on horseback, and in his hurry had forgotten in it his sword and hat. Thus the affairs continued till break of day. About forty thousand men, in the most complete disorder, the remains of the whole army, have saved themselves, retreating through Charleroi, partly without arms, and carrying with them only twenty-seven pieces of their numerous artillery.

The enemy in his flight has passed all his fortresses, the only defence of his frontiers, which are now passed by our armies.

At three o'clock, Napoleon had dispatched from the field of battle, a courier to Paris, with the news that victory was no longer doubtful ; a few hours after he had no longer any army left. We have not yet any exact account of the enemy's loss : it is enough to know that two-thirds of the whole army are killed, wounded or prisoners ; among the latter are generals Monton, Duhesme and Compans. Up to this time, about three hundred cannon and above five hundred caissons are in our hands.

Few victories have been so complete ; and there is certainly no example that an army two days after losing a battle, engaged in such an action and so gloriously maintained it. Honour be to

troops capable of so much firmness and valour ! In the middle of the position occupied by the French army, and exactly upon the height, is a farm, called La Belle Alliance. The march of all the Prussian columns was directed towards this farm, which was visible from every side. It was there that Napoleon was during the battle, it was thence that he gave his orders, that he flattered himself with the hopes of victory, and it was there that his ruin was decided. There too it was that by a happy chance field-marshal Blucher and Lord Wellington met in the dark, and mutually saluted each other as victors.

In commemoration of the alliance which now subsists between the English and Prussian nations, of the union of the two armies, and their reciprocal confidence, the field-marshal desired that this battle should bear the name of La Belle Alliance.

By the order of Field-marshal Blucher,  
General GNEISENAU.

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London Gazette, June 24th, 1815.

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*Letter from the Duke of Wellington.*

My Lord,

Bruxelles, June 19, 1815.

I HAVE to inform your lordship, in addition to my dispatch of this morning, that we have already

got here five thousand prisoners taken in the action of yesterday, and that there are above two thousand more coming in to-morrow : there will probably be many more. Among the prisoners are the Count Loubau, who commanded the 6th corps, and general Cambrone, who commanded a division of the guards. I propose to send the whole to England by Ostend.

I have the honour to be, &c.

WELLINGTON.

Earl Bathurst, &c. &c. &c.

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Supplement to London Gazette of July 1st, 1815.

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*Letter from the Duke of Wellington.*

My Lord,

Orville, June 29, 1815.

BEING aware of the anxiety existing in England to receive the returns of killed and wounded in the late actions, I now send lists of the officers, and expect to be able to send this evening returns of the non-commissioned officers and soldiers. The amount of non-commissioned officers and soldiers, British and Hanoverian, killed, wounded and missing, is between 12 and 13,000.

Your lordship will see in the enclosed lists the names of some most valuable officers lost to His Majesty's service. Among them I cannot avoid

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to mention colonel Cameron of the 92d, and colonel Sir H. Ellis of the 23d regiments, to whose conduct I have frequently drawn your lordship's attention, and who at last fell, distinguishing themselves at the head of the brave troops which they commanded.

Notwithstanding the glory of the occasion, it is impossible not to lament such men, both on account of the public and as friends.

I have the honour to be, &c.

WELLINGTON.

Earl Bathurst, &c. &c. &c.

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## Capture of Paris.

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London Gazette Extraordinary, 7 July 1815.

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### *Letter from the Duke of Wellington.*

My Lord,

Gonasse, July 4, 1815.

FIELD-MARSHAL Prince Blücher was strongly opposed by the enemy in taking the position on the left of the Seine, which I reported, in my dispatch of the 2d instant, that he intended to take up on that day, particularly on the heights of St. Cloud and Meudon ; but the gallantry of



the Prussian troops, under general Ziethen, surmounted every obstacle, and they succeeded finally in establishing themselves on the heights of Meudon, and in the village of Issy. The French attacked them again in Issy, at three o'clock in the morning of the 3d, but were repulsed with considerable loss ; and finding that Paris was then open on its vulnerable side, that a communication was opened between the two allied armies by a bridge which I had had established at Argenteuil, and that a British corps was likewise moving upon the left of the Seine, towards the Pont de Neuilly, the enemy sent to desire that the firing might cease on both sides of the Seine, with a view to the negociation, at the palace of St. Cloud, of a military convention between the armies, under which the French army should evacuate Paris.

Officers accordingly met on both sides at St. Cloud ; and I enclose the copy of the military convention which was agreed to last night, and which had been ratified by marshal Prince Blucher and me, and by the Prince d'Echmuhl on the part of the French army.

This convention decides all the military questions at this moment existing here, and touches nothing political.

General Lord Hill has marched to take possession of the posts evacuated by agreement this

day, and I propose to-morrow to take possession of Montmartre.

I send this dispatch by my aide-de-camp, captain Lord Arthur Hill, by way of Calais. He will be able to inform your lordship of any further particulars, and I beg leave to recommend him to your favour and protection.

I have, &c.

(signed) WELLINGTON.

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THIS day, the 3d of July 1815, the commissioners named by the commanders-in-chief of the respective armies ; that is to say, the Baron Bignon, holding the portefeuille of foreign affairs ; the Count Guilleminot, chief of the general staff of the French army ; the Count de Bondy, prefect of the department of the Seine, being furnished with the full powers of his excellency the marshal Prince of Echmuhl, commander-in-chief of the French army, on one side ; and major-general Baron Muffling, furnished with the full powers of his highness the field-marshal Prince Blucher, commander-in-chief of the Prussian army ; colonel Hervey, furnished with the full powers of his excellency the Duke of Wellington, commander-in-chief of the English army, on the other side, have agreed to the following articles :

Art. I. There shall be a suspension of arms between the allied armies commanded by his highness the Prince Blucher and his excellency the Duke of Wellington, and the French army under the walls of Paris.

Art. II. The French army shall put itself in march to-morrow, to take up its position behind the Loire. Paris shall be completely evacuated in three days; and the movement behind the Loire shall be effected within eight days.

Art. III. The French army shall take with it all its materiel, field artillery, military chest, horses, and property of regiments, without exception. All persons belonging to the dépôts shall also be removed, as well as those belonging to the different branches of administration, which belong to the army.

Art. IV. The sick and wounded, and the medical officers whom it may be necessary to leave with them, are placed under the special protection of the commanders-in-chief of the English and Prussian armies.

Art. V. The military and those holding employments to whom the foregoing article relates, shall be at liberty immediately after their recovery to rejoin the corps to which they belong.

Art. VI. The wives and children of all individuals belonging to the French army shall be at liberty to remain in Paris. The wives shall be

allowed to quit Paris for the purpose of rejoining the army, and to carry with them their property, and that of their husbands.

Art. VII. The officers of the line employed with the *federés*, or with the *tirailleurs* of the national guard, may either join the army or return to their homes, or the places of their birth.

Art. VIII. To-morrow, the 4th of July, at mid-day, St. Denis, St. Ouen, Clichy, and Neuilly, shall be given up. The day after to-morrow, the 5th, at the same hour, Montmartre shall be given up. The third day, the 6th, all the barriers shall be given up.

Art. IX. The duty of the city of Paris shall continue to be done by the national guard, and by the corps of the municipal gendarmerie.

Art. X. The commanders-in-chief of the English and Prussian armies engage to respect, and to make those under their command respect, the actual authorities, so long as they shall exist.

Art. XI. Public property, with the exception of that which relates to war, whether it belongs to the government, or depends upon the municipal authority, shall be respected, and the Allied Powers will not interfere in any manner with its administration and management.

Art. XII. Private persons and property shall be equally respected. The inhabitants, and in



general all individuals who shall be in the capital, shall continue to enjoy their rights and liberties, without being disturbed or called to account either as to the situations which they hold or may have held, or as to their conduct or political opinions.

Art. XIII. The foreign troops shall not interpose any obstacles to the provisioning of the capital, and will protect, on the contrary, the arrival and the free circulation of the articles which are destined for it.

Art. XIV. The present convention shall be observed, and shall serve to regulate the mutual relations until the conclusion of peace. In case of rupture, it must be denounced in the usual forms, at least ten days beforehand.

Art. XV. If difficulties arise in the execution of any one of the articles of the present convention, the interpretation of it shall be made in favour of the French army and of the city of Paris.

Art. XVI. The present convention is declared common to all the allied armies, provided it be ratified by the powers on which these armies are dependent.

Art. XVII. The ratifications shall be exchanged to-morrow, the 4th of July, at six o'clock in the morning, at the bridge of Neuilly.

Art. XVIII. Commissioners shall be named by the respective parties, in order to watch over the execution of the present convention.

Done and signed at St. Cloud, in triplicate, by the commissioners above named, the day and year before mentioned.

(signed)      The Baron BIGNON.  
                  Count GUILLEMINOT.  
                  Count De BONDY.  
                  The Baron De MUFFLING.  
                  F. B. HERVEY, Colonel.

Approved and ratified the present suspension of arms, at Paris, the 3d of July 1815.

                  Approved,  
(signed)      Marshal the Prince D'ECHMUHL.

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